

Lead Poisoning and Exposure during the Perinatal Period

Risk factor questionnaire

Providers may use this questionnaire to screen pregnant patients for their risk of lead exposure and lead poisoning.

If a patient answers ‘yes’ to **any** of these questions, **order a venous blood test**.

Question	Yes?
Individual information	
Have you ever been told that you have an elevated blood lead level or lead poisoning?	
Were you born outside of the U.S.?	
During this pregnancy, have you craved, eaten, or chewed on any non-food items such as clay, soil, pottery, or paint chips?	
Do you live with any children or adults who currently have an elevated blood lead level or who have been diagnosed with lead poisoning?	
Occupations or hobbies	
Do you, or does someone in your household, work with lead or lead paint? (Examples include construction, renovation, painting, metalwork, battery manufacturing, or ammunition manufacturing.)	
Do you, or does someone in your household, have any hobbies that involve lead? (Examples include casting or reloading ammunition, making fishing weights, restoring cars or boats, making pottery, making stained glass, or using paints or glazes that contain lead.)	
Home and environment	
Do you live in or regularly visit a house or building that was constructed before 1978?	
Do you know if your house or rental is on a lead service line?	
Do you live near an open or closed smelter, old factory, mine, small airport, racetrack, or battery recycling plant?	
Products, food, and traditional remedies	
Do you use any imported or traditional remedies or medicines? (Examples include arzacon, greta, or herbal mixtures from East Indian, Middle Eastern, or Hispanic cultures.)	
Do you use any imported cosmetics? (Examples include kohl, surma, or henna.)	
Do you use any antique, thrifted, vintage, handmade, or imported pottery for cooking, serving food, or storing food?	

A ‘yes’ to any of these questions may indicate that a patient has been exposed to lead.

If a patient answers ‘yes’ to any of these questions, **order a venous blood lead test**, and follow the state’s clinical guidance.