

# MEMO

**TO: CCLS Clients**

**FROM: CCLS – Specimen Referral Center**

**DATE: November 27, 2023**

**SUBJECT: Lead, Blood, Capillary, Lead, Blood, Venous, & Heavy Metal Screen, Venous**

Effective December 13, Mayo will be making changes to the following tests:

***LEAD, BLOOD, CAPILLARY, MAYO CODE PBDC (LAB0002080)***

***LEAD, BLOOD, VENOUS, MAYO CODE PBDV (LAB0234349)***

***HEAVY METAL SCREEN, VENOUS, MAYO CODE HMDB (LAB0202267)***

**Explanation:** The current reference level at which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends public health actions be initiated is 3.5 mcg/dL in patients 0 to 5 years old and 5 mcg/dL for patients 6 years and older. The most recent National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) data shows that 97.5 percentile for blood lead levels in US adults age 16 years and older is 3.46 mcg /dL. In concurrence with the reference value concept that there is no safe level of lead in blood, the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists Occupational Health Subcommittee approved lowering the blood lead threshold from 5 to 3.5 mcg/dL for adults.

Current Reference Value	New Reference Value
<b>ARSENIC</b> <13 ng/mL Reference values apply to all ages.	<b>ARSENIC</b> <13 ng/mL Reference values apply to all ages.
<b>LEAD</b> <b>0-5 years: &lt;3.5 mcg/dL</b> <b>&gt; or =6 years: &lt;5.0 mcg/dL</b> <b>Critical values</b> <b>Pediatrics (&lt; or =15 years): &gt; or =20.0 mcg/dL</b> <b>Adults (&gt; or =16 years): &gt; or =70.0 mcg/dL</b>	<b>LEAD</b> <b>&lt;3.5 mcg/dL</b> <b>Critical values</b> <b>Pediatrics (&lt; or =15 years): &gt; or =20.0 mcg/dL</b> <b>Adults (&gt; or =16 years): &gt; or =70.0 mcg/dL</b>
<b>CADMIUM</b> <5.0 ng/mL Reference values apply to all ages.	<b>CADMIUM</b> <5.0 ng/mL Reference values apply to all ages.
<b>MERCURY</b> <10 ng/mL Reference values apply to all ages.	<b>MERCURY</b> <10 ng/mL Reference values apply to all ages.

Please feel free to contact the Specimen Referrals Center with any questions at 320-251-2700 Ext. 57320