

# APPENDIX A

## FLOWCHART: THE PROCESS ONCE A CHILD IS IDENTIFIED AS HAVING AN ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD LEVEL

### CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

When child tests positive with an elevated blood lead level, the lab is required to send the report to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). IDPH transfers the information on Chicago's children to the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) in a daily e-mail. CDPH inputs the results into STELLAR (Systematic Tracking of Elevated Lead Levels and Remediation), which creates referrals for visits from a public health nurse and environmental inspections. If the BLL is between 15 and 19  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ , a home visit is advised. However, for levels over 20  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ , the case is subject to environmental management and medical case management.

The first step in environmental management is an inspection for lead hazards in the home. The inspector documents the visit, and the data is entered into STELLAR. If there are no hazards found, a compliance letter is issued. If lead hazards are found in the unit, a letter is sent to the owner, requiring mitigation of the lead hazard. If the owner does not comply with the standards set out in the letter, the case is sent to either the Circuit Court or an Administrative Hearing for enforcement.

A public health nurse is sent to the home to assess the child's health and the environment. A report of that visit is also entered into the STELLAR database, and referrals for follow-up health care are made.

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