



HEALTH ALERT NETWORK | HEALTH UPDATE | OCTOBER 15, 2021

Expansion of Recall of LeadCare Blood Lead Tests Due to Risk of Falsely Low Results

The Blood Lead Program with the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality is notifying health care providers and medical laboratories about an update on the expansion to the recent recall of certain Magellan Diagnostics, Inc. blood lead test kit lots. The recalled test kits may yield falsely low blood lead levels which may further increase health risks to people with high blood lead levels. If you have questions about testing or reporting please feel free to contact Justin Otto at 701-328-5166 or jotto@nd.gov.

This is an official CDC HEALTH UPDATE

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Expansion of Recall of LeadCare Blood Lead Tests Due to Risk of Falsely Low Results

Summary

Magellan Diagnostics, Inc. and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have issued notifications about the expansion of Magellan Diagnostics' recall of LeadCare II, LeadCare Plus, and LeadCare Ultra Blood Lead Tests, which were distributed from October 27, 2020, to August 19, 2021. Additional LeadCare II product lots, including lots previously reported to be unaffected, were recalled due to a significant risk of falsely low results. The use of these devices may cause serious injuries because they might underestimate blood lead levels. FDA has identified this as a Class I recall, the most serious type of recall.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is issuing this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Update to notify healthcare providers and state and local health departments about the expansion of the recall notice and to recommend appropriate follow-up actions in the shortage of LeadCare Lead Tests. This HAN Health Update is an update to [HAN Health Advisory 445: Recall of LeadCare Blood Lead Tests Due to Risk of Falsely Low Results](#) that CDC issued on July 6, 2021.

Background

Magellan Diagnostics, Inc. is recalling LeadCare II, LeadCare Plus, and LeadCare Ultra Blood Lead Test kits due to a significant risk of falsely low blood lead level results. FDA has concerns that the falsely low results may contribute to health risks in special populations such as young children and pregnant individuals. A pregnant or lactating individual's exposure to lead is concerning because it may cause health problems for the parent and the developing baby. Obtaining falsely low blood lead level results may lead to patients not receiving appropriate follow-up assessments, which may result in patient harm, including delayed puberty, reduced postnatal growth, decreased IQ, and attention and behavior problems in children.

FDA initially notified CDC on June 24, 2021, that some Magellan Diagnostics blood lead test kits were undergoing a voluntary recall by the manufacturer. FDA recommended that Magellan Diagnostics customers discontinue using all affected test kit lots identified as part of the recall and quarantine remaining inventory. On August 31, 2021, Magellan Diagnostics began notifying customers that the recall was expanded to include additional LeadCare II product lots. The recall now includes the majority of all test kits distributed since October 27, 2020. Product distribution has been paused until further notice, and replacement product is currently unavailable. It is unknown when replacement product will be available.

Recommendations for Clinicians

- Continue to schedule and perform required blood lead tests for patients. A venous or capillary blood sample analyzed using higher complexity methods such as inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) or graphite furnace atomic absorption spectroscopy (GFAAS) from a CLIA compliant clinical laboratory should be used if LeadCare lead test kits are unavailable.
- Discontinue using all [test kit lots](#) identified as part of the recall.
- Retest children who were tested with the recalled LeadCare lead test kits whose results were less than CDC's [blood lead reference value](#). Retesting should be done with a venous blood sample analyzed with higher complexity testing.
- Retest children who were previously tested with a LeadCare test kit if the lot number of the initial test kit is unknown and the test was done after October 27, 2020.
- Prioritize testing for:
 - Children where there is clinical concern that symptoms or developmental problems may be related to lead exposure,
 - Populations at higher risk of elevated blood lead levels, such as children tested due to Medicaid-required screening or due to other state or local requirements,
 - Individuals who are pregnant or breastfeeding, and
 - Children who are immigrants, refugees, or recently adopted from outside of the United States.
- Discuss the recall and retesting recommendations with a parent or caregiver of children who meet the retesting criteria.
- Follow recommendations for [best practices](#) when collecting a capillary blood sample for lead testing.

Recommendations for Public Health Professionals

- Work with healthcare providers in their jurisdictions to ensure patients receive their required blood lead tests. This outreach should include making providers aware of the need to conduct a capillary or venous test analyzed using higher complexity methods if LeadCare lead test kits are unavailable.
- Make providers aware that:
 - By delaying blood lead testing for children due to the unavailability of LeadCare lead test kits, children exposed to lead risk are not being identified and receiving necessary treatment and services.
 - If blood lead testing indicates blood lead levels are above the current [CDC blood lead reference value](#) or state or local action level, the healthcare provider or public health professional should refer to CDC guidelines or state/local guidelines for appropriate follow-up action.
 - [State and public health laboratories](#) may be able to help with additional demands for higher complexity testing.
- Follow recommendations for [best practices](#) when [collecting a capillary blood sample](#) for lead testing.
- Per [CDC guidance](#), children with blood lead levels at or greater than CDC's [blood lead reference value](#) should have had a subsequent test with a venous blood sample for confirmation. LeadCare instruments are currently approved for use only with capillary or finger/heel stick samples.
 - Venous blood confirmation levels are performed with higher complexity testing such as inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) or graphite furnace atomic absorption spectroscopy (GFAAS) and are generally considered more accurate and are available from CLIA-compliant clinical laboratories.

For More Information about Blood Lead Testing

- [CDC's Lead Poisoning Prevention Program](#)
- [CDC's Lead and Multi-element Proficiency Program](#)

For More Information about the Recall

- [Magellan Diagnostics Recalls LeadCare II, LeadCare Plus, and LeadCare Ultra Blood Lead Tests Due to Risk of Falsely Low Results](#)
- [Information on the LeadCare Test Kit "Controls Out of Range-Low" \("COOR-LO"\) Recall](#)

For More Information about Laboratory-related Resources

- [Blood Lead Testing in Public Health Laboratories](#)
- [Video: What is the Laboratory Response Network for Chemical Threats \(LRN-C\)?](#)
- [Best Practices for Sampling and Testing Blood for Lead](#)
- [Lead Testing at Environmental Health Laboratories](#)

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Categories of Health Alert Network messages:

Health Alert Requires immediate action or attention; highest level of importance

Health Advisory May not require immediate action; provides important information for a specific incident or situation

Health Update Unlikely to require immediate action; provides updated information regarding an incident or situation

HAN Info Service Does not require immediate action; provides general public health information

##This message was distributed to state and local health officers, state and local epidemiologists, state and local laboratory directors, public information officers, HAN coordinators, and clinician organizations##