It Starts with Testing: Clinical Evaluation, Treatment, and Management of Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels

Under-testing for BLL’s by pediatric health care providers is endemic in many states – with New Hampshire being one of them. Fewer than 17% of the children in NH under the age of six years who should have been tested, have had the recommended BLL tests at age 1 and again at age 2. Yet, each year, an estimated 800 children are identified in New Hampshire as having blood lead levels known to impair academic performance and cause behavior challenges. The effects that even low-level lead exposure have on the brain’s learning systems have been identified in study after study. Children with lead exposure cannot avoid the negative impact and once a child’s health or cognition has been harmed by lead, the effects can be permanent and the consequences continue into adulthood. This presentation will review lead’s “Neurobehavioral Signature” – the significant negative impact on children’s cognitive ability, speech and language, hearing, visual-spatial skills, attention, impulse control, social behaviors, emotional regulation, and motor skills. In addition, discussion will include strategies to increase BLL testing rates with point-of-care testing with a simple finger-stick sample. Key components of effective clinical management plans for children with elevated BLL’s and their families will be outlined. Indications for chelation therapy as a therapeutic option in cases of moderate to severe pediatric lead poisoning, and details of safe chelant administration, will also be addressed.

Additional Presentations

ACIP Updates on Immunizations
Wendy Wright, MS, RN, ARNP, FNP, FAANP, Member NH Immunization Advisory Board
Wright and Associates Family Healthcare ~ Concord and Amherst

Point-of-Care Blood Lead Level Testing in the Pediatric Office
David Priette, MD, FAAP, Rochester Pediatrics
Chair of Pediatrics Department ~ Frisbie Memorial Hospital ~ Rochester, NH

NH Updates: Childhood Lead Poisoning Surveillance Data and Legislation
Gail Gettens, MS, Health Promotion Advisor and Child Development Specialist
NH Division of Public Health Services ~ Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Educational Dinner Program is FREE. CME’s and Nurse CEU’s Provided. Registration Required.

Click Here to Register.

Please see following pages for additional information, educational program agenda and complete speaker bios.
AGENDA

Wednesday, October 25, 2017 ~ Conference Center at Frisbie Memorial Hospital ~ Rochester, NH

4:45 pm  Registration & Exhibits

5:00 - 5:30  Dinner Buffet & Exhibits

5:30 - 5:40  Opening Remarks

Deborah Ann Harrigan, MD, President, NH Medical Society
Skyhaven Internal Medicine ~ Frisbie Memorial Hospital ~ Rochester, NH

5:40 - 6:15  Immunization Update: Current ACIP Recommendations

Wendy Wright, MS, RN, ARNP, FNP, FAANP, Member NH Immunization Advisory Board,
Wright and Associates Family Healthcare ~ Concord and Amherst

6:15 - 6:30  Dessert Break & Exhibits

6:30 - 7:10  It Starts with Testing: Clinical Evaluation, Treatment, and Management of Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels

Sean Palfrey, MD, Medical Director, The Lead Clinic at Boston Medical Center
Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health, Boston University School of Medicine

7:10 - 7:30  Point-of-Care Blood Lead Level Testing in the NH Pediatric Office: A Success Story in Increasing Testing Rates

David Pruette, MD  Rochester Pediatrics
Chair of Pediatrics Department~ Frisbie Memorial Hospital ~ Rochester, NH

Frisbie Hospital has successfully and seamlessly implemented point-of-care, BLL testing in their pediatric and family medicine offices in 2013. Completing BLL testing in-office, with finger-stick sample, as part of rooming process for all 1 and 2 year old Well Child Check visits, rapidly increased BLL testing rates to ensure compliance with all testing requirements, eliminated costly patient follow up, and has allowed results to be given to parents before they leave the exam room.

7:30 - 7:40  NH Updates: Childhood Lead Poisoning Surveillance Data and Legislation

7:40 - 8:00  Q&A Panel with the evening’s speakers

Educational Dinner Program is FREE. Registration Required. Click Here to Register. Space is limited.

Additional Information: Gail Gettens ~ 271-1393 ~ gail.gettens@dhhs.nh.gov - CME’s and Nurse CEU’s Provided.
FEATURED SPEAKERS

Sean Palfrey, MD, FAAP
Director, The Lead Clinic at Boston Medical Center

Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health, Boston University School of Medicine and Boston University School of Public Health

Dr. Sean Palfrey is a pediatrician, educator, and medical toxicologist. He received his AB from Harvard University and his MD from Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons. For over three decades, Dr. Palfrey has been the medical director of the Lead Clinic at Boston Medical Center, the medical component of the Boston Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, a joint initiative by the Boston Public Health Commission, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Department of Pediatrics at Boston Medical Center. The Lead Clinic offers a full range of clinical, environmental and educational services for the families of children who have been lead poisoned.

He has served as president of Massachusetts Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics, as well as, member of regional committees on Environmental Health. He is Director of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MCAAP) Immunization initiative

Dr. Palfrey has dedicated his life’s work to improving and advocating for children’s health and was the recipient of the 2015 AMA’s Excellence in Education Award.

Wendy L. Wright, MS, RN, APRN, FNP, FAANP, FAAN
Family Nurse Practitioner, Wright & Associates Family Healthcare

Wendy Wright is a 1992 graduate of the Adult Primary Care Nurse Practitioner program at Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts and completed a family nurse practitioner post-master’s program in 1995. She is an adult and family nurse practitioner and the owner of two, nurse practitioner owned and operated clinics in New Hampshire: Wright & Associates Family Healthcare located in Amherst and Concord. She received the 1999 Excellence Award from the NH Affiliate of the American Association of Nurse Practitioner.

Wendy was inducted as a Fellow into the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners; a position held by only 450 other nurse practitioners throughout the country. Wendy is also an Adjunct faculty member, DNP Program, Simmons College, Boston. She is the nurse practitioner representative on the State of NH Immunization Advisory Board.

David Pruette, MD, FAAP
Rochester Pediatrics, Chair of Pediatrics Department, Frisbie Memorial Hospital

Dr. Pruette is the chair of the pediatric department at Frisbie Hospital and practices at Rochester Pediatrics. He received his MD from the Medical University of South Carolina and completed residency at Inova Fairfax Hospital for children in Falls Church, Virginia. He is interested in improving the health of the community by focusing on preventative pediatric care.

Gail Gettens, MS,
Health Promotion Advisor and Child Development Specialist
NH Division of Public Health Services Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Ms. Gettens provides clinical management and prevention technical assistance, and education and outreach to pediatricians, nurses, educators and parents. She is an experienced child development specialist and program manager, and has completed extensive training on childhood lead poisoning and prevention through the Center for Disease Control, the Federal agency that funds her position and program. Gail is a graduate of Dartmouth College and completed a Master’s Degree in Child Development and Early Childhood Education at Wheelock College (Boston).