



Removal from lead work - Management of workers

When should a worker be removed from lead work?

All workers who work in lead-risk work are required to have regular blood tests for lead as part of the health surveillance requirements.

Health surveillance must be supervised by an Appointed Medical Practitioner. It is mandatory that results consistent with exposure are reported promptly to WorkSafe.

Removal from lead work is triggered at different levels for men and women depending on their circumstances:

- Men with blood lead levels of 50 µg/dL or higher;
- Women who are not of reproductive capacity share the same removal levels as men, ie 50 µg/dL;
- Women of reproductive capacity with blood lead level of 20 µg/dL or higher;
- Women who are breast feeding or pregnant.

You must remove the worker from lead-risk work as soon as practical after you have been made aware of the results.

You must also arrange for the worker to be examined by an Appointed Medical Practitioner within 7 days of removal. The outcome of the examination should be provided to WorkSafe.

When can the worker return to lead-risk work?

You must not permit the worker to return to lead-risk work until the worker has been examined by an Appointed Medical

Practitioner and certified as suitable to return to lead-risk work. This will be determined on the basis of the medical condition, including follow up lead levels.

Who is responsible for the cost of the medical examination and tests for potential lead health effects?

As the employer, you are responsible for all medical costs.

Can the worker work at all?

In the absence of any significant adverse health effects, the worker may continue to work but not in lead-risk tasks or lead-exposed areas to prevent further lead contamination or absorption of lead.

What records must I keep for workers who have been removed from lead-risk work?

For each worker who has been removed and returned to lead-risk work, you must document:

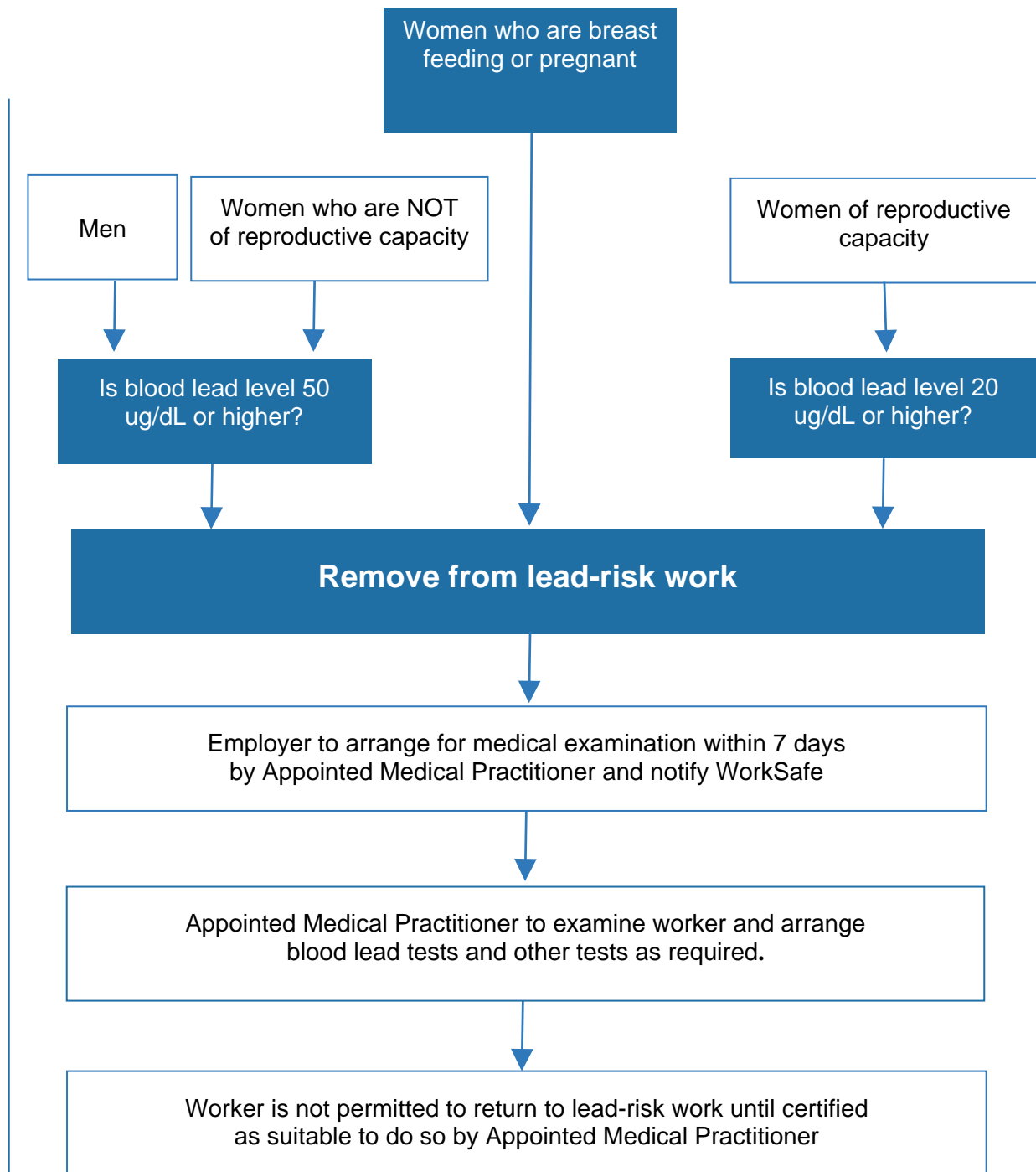
- (a) the worker's name, sex and date of birth; and
- (b) the date of each occasion of removal, the blood lead levels, and corresponding date of return to lead-risk work.

You must keep the records for the duration of the worker's employment and for at least 30 years from the date of the last entry.

If the organisation ceases to operate in WA, you must provide the records to WorkSafe.

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Removal of Workers from Lead-Risk Work



Regional Offices