

October 23, 2018

To: All community providers, educators and caregivers

Re: Referral process for the Neurodevelopmental Center of Excellence (NCE)

As of October 22nd 2018, Genesee Health System's Neurodevelopmental Center of Excellence (NCE) will begin accepting referrals for children exposed to lead from the Flint water for neuropsychological assessments. NCE is an expansion of GHS' assessment services for children which already provides Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) assessments. The new assessment center will house ASD, FASD, and the neuropsychological assessments resulting from lead exposure in the Flint water.

Neuropsychological assessments are designed to provide parents, educators, and medical professionals, insight into how a child solves problems, processes information, remembers and stores information, uses and understands language, regulates emotions, and behaves. The impact of lead on the developing brain has been shown to be significant, resulting in neurocognitive symptoms and psychiatric disturbances. In light of the Flint water crisis, neuropsychological assessment services are now available to assist caregivers, educators and medical/psychiatric providers in supporting children who may have suffered damage as a result of exposure to lead.

Should you be interested in neuropsychological assessment services for a child/individual, the following criteria are required to initiate a screening:

- Any child/individual ages 3 through 26 who have not graduated from high school who were exposed to lead in the Flint water supply
- The child/individual was living in Flint between April 2014 to January 2016 at the time of exposure
- The individual has Medicaid or is eligible for Medicaid

Should the child meet criteria, then a referral should be placed using the following documents:

- Completed referral sheet (NCE Referral sheet- attached)
- Neurological/genetic testing documents (if applicable)
- School records- Individualized Education Plans/504 Plans/ Behavior plans (if applicable)

The completed referral should be forwarded to the GHS Neurodevelopmental Center of Excellence via fax to 810-257-3757. Once the referral is received, NCE will contact the child/individual's parent/caregiver and begin the screening process. Based on the screening results, the child/individual may warrant a full neuropsychological assessment. If you have any questions regarding this process, please do not hesitate to contact the Neurodevelopmental Center of Excellence at (810)496-5677. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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