

# INSTRUCTION SHEET FOR CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN EXPOSED TO METHAMPHETAMINE LABORATORIES

The child (ren) who have been placed in your home may have recently been exposed to chemicals at an illegal drug lab. Children found in this environment who do not require emergent medical care will need to be seen within a period of twenty-four to seventy- two hours from the time they were taken into protective custody. In cases of emergency care, these child(ren) will have already received necessary medical treatment at the time of the detention before they were brought to your care.

It is the responsibility of the placement caregiver to follow through and ensure that the child(ren) who are part of the Drug Endangered Children's (DEC) Program are medically assessed within this time frame in order to assist us in ruling out methamphetamine exposure.

There are two collaborating medical facilities that will assist in providing the appropriate services to Drug Endangered Children, Huntington Memorial Hospital and King/Drew Medical Center, Multi-Service Hub. Caregivers can go to the medical facility closest to their home.

Huntington Memorial Hospital is located at 100 West California Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107. They can also be reached by calling (626) 397-5112. Huntington Memorial Hospital will provide initial and emergency medical services to DEC Children. The caregivers bringing children to receive care at this facility are requested to see the front desk intake medical staff in the Emergency Room Floor and immediately identify the child(ren) as being "Meth Lab Exposed." The caregiver should also notify the hospital staff that the Department of Children and Family Services Drug Endangered Children's Program referred them.

Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center, Multi-Service Hub is located at 1721 East

120<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90059. To schedule an appointment at the Hub contact the medical secretaries at (310) 668-6400. The Hubs provide medical examinations, developmental and dental screenings, pscho-social assessments and will conduct all medical follow-up and subsequent evaluations. On-going medical services can be provided by the Hub for the duration of DCFS intervention or can be referred out when one or more of the following is true: 1. Meth lab exposure has been ruled out; 2. Medical treatment has stabilized and/or eliminated the risk of meth lab exposure; and 3. A separate medical facility has been identified near the child(ren)'s placement to have similar capabilities in providing the appropriate and specialized medical care to DEC Children. Advise the medical staff of the referral by DCFS, DEC Program to seek medical follow-up for the child(ren) in your care for "Meth Lab Exposure."

Monitor the child/children for these signs/symptoms:

Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea  
Headache  
Chest Pain  
Extreme Irritability  
Dark Colored Urine  
Fever, High Temperature

Abdominal Pain Moderate – Severe  
Hallucinations Very Rapid Heart Rate  
Decrease In Mental Status  
Yellow Jaundice

If the child(ren) have any of these symptoms before they are scheduled to see the doctor, they should immediately be taken to see an ER Physician closest to your home. This should be followed by a prompt phone call to notify the case-carrying Children Social Worker.