

CYANAMID

AMERICAN CYANAMID COMPANY

BERDAN AVENUE, WAYNE, NEW JERSEY

TELEPHONE: (AREA CODE 201) 831-1234

January 31, 1964

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
Kettering Laboratory
University of Cincinnati
College of Medicine
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

At one of our larger plants we have for many years performed urinary lead determinations at one month intervals on all of the lead burners employed at this location.

Some time ago, guided to a large extent by your own recommendations, as well as by other authorities in this field, we discontinued urinary leads and are now performing blood lead determinations. This, of course, was prompted by the realization that a blood lead determination will, at any given time, more accurately assess the degree of inorganic lead absorption than will a urine analysis.

Subsequent to this change, there has been considerable discussion among ourselves as to the advisability of either maintaining the monthly interval between periodic rechecks or extending this to a three month or possibly even a six month interval. We would very much like to have your recommendations in this matter with particular reference to the time interval between blood samples.

By way of background, the group under consideration here is as I mentioned, lead burners and for many years have been engaged in this work without any clinical evidence of lead intoxication. On rare occasions one of them will reveal a urinary lead in excess of 0.20 mg per liter. This man would then be removed from further occupational exposure until subsequent tests show that his urinary lead has fallen into a safer range. These men, further, have all been carefully indoctrinated as to the hazards and have been repeatedly exposed to training sessions on good work practices. This particular plant also employs a full time industrial hygienist who routinely inspects all potential hazardous work areas.

I trust the above will give you sufficient background on which to base your reply.

Thank you so much for your attention to this matter. With kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

H. C. Halsted
H. C. Halsted, M.D.

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