

# Childhood Lead Poisoning Alert

March 9, 2007



## PLEASE POST

Recently, the Kent County Health Department visited a Latino family whose child was lead poisoned by a home remedy for indigestion. The home remedy is called **azarcon**. Many home remedies are safe, but some contain dangerous levels of lead. **Azarcon** is typically an orange or yellow powder; it is heated up with water like a tea, and is given for indigestion or nausea, or *empacho*.

Other dangerous home remedies are *greta*, which is also a yellow powder is given for indigestion, and *pay loo ah*, which is a red powder that treats rash or fever.

Imported cosmetics and skin treatments also often contain lead. These are identified as *surma*, *kohl*, and *khali*. These powders are used for eye makeup, skin infections, or to heal the navel of newborn babies.

Please encourage your all your clients and families to discontinue the use of these home remedies and imported cosmetics. If you see children and families in a healthcare setting where children may present with nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, dehydration, etc, please warn them specifically about the dangers of *azarcon* and *greta*.

*Get the Lead Out!* and the Kent County Health Department remind you that all children in high-risk zip codes, all children receiving Medicaid, and children living in older housing should be tested at one and two years of age. While non-paint sources of childhood lead poisoning are increasing, it is important to remember that lead paint chips, dust, and tainted soil still result in approximately nine out of ten Kent County poisonings.

For more information, contact:

Kent County Health Department

(616) 632-7063

*Get the Lead Out!*

(616) 734-9443

Michigan Department of Community Health Screening Plan

[www.michigan.gov/documents/PROVIDERSGUIDELINES\\_89397\\_7.PDF](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/PROVIDERSGUIDELINES_89397_7.PDF)

 **Get the Lead Out!**  
Preventing Childhood Lead Poisoning Through Partnership

 KENT COUNTY  
**HEALTH**  
DEPARTMENT