

EMT GLUCOSE TESTING

POLICY:

1. Blood Glucose Testing is a procedure approved by the Medical Program Director for use by the certified EMTB. It is to be used in agencies that wish to adopt it as part of their program.
2. The Medical Program Director or designee is responsible for managing skill retention, reviewing, monitoring, and making recommendations regarding the system's program.

PREREQUISITES: The student will be an EMT basic or above

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

- ✓ The course is designed to be a minimum of 1 hour in length and combining lecture with hands-on practice
- ✓ The instructor can be anyone competent in using the glucose machine that each department has. This most likely would be their paramedic partner
- ✓ Module I:
 - Lecture with equipment display 1/2 hour
- ✓ Module II:
 - Lab with hands-on practice in the field

EQUIPMENT:

- ✓ Policies for infection control, quality control, and guidelines for use of blood glucose monitoring supplies
- ✓ Blood glucose strips and/or monitor (same as will be used in the field)
- ✓ Lancets
- ✓ 2 x 2s
- ✓ Alcohol swabs
- ✓ Gloves
- ✓ Sharps container
- ✓ Check off sheet

COURSE COMPETENCIES:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student shall be able to:

- ✓ Describe the purpose of blood glucose monitoring
- ✓ Describe and demonstrate methods necessary to prevent cross contamination through the use of equipment by adherence to universal blood and body fluid precautions
- ✓ Demonstrate the correct technique for individual strip and/or instrumentation operation to include
 - Specimen collection and infection control
 - Instrumentation calibration
 - Test performance
 - Individual instrumentation display codes and troubleshooting procedures
 - Documentation of results and proper follow-up of abnormal test results in a timely fashion
- ✓ Demonstrate proper quality control testing, and documentation of results, and corrective actions
- ✓ Discuss preventative maintenance of strips and/or instrumentation to include documentation and follow-up
- ✓ List and describe the indications for blood glucose testing as stated in the protocols
- ✓ Describe the contraindications for blood glucose testing

COURSE CONTENT MODULE I, LECTURE:

1. Description

- ✓ Blood glucose testing is an invasive diagnostic aid to assist in the management of ALS patients with specific signs and symptoms. Patient care, treatment, and outcome may be improved with its use
- ✓ Blood glucose testing may be performed only with the approval of the county Medical Program Director

- ✓ Normal supportive therapy, airway management, and peripheral IV access should not be affected by blood glucose testing
- 2. **Indications:** As outlined in the NW Region Protocols
- 3. **Contraindications:** Use of strips or instrumentation that has failed QC testing and with no corrective action taken.
- 4. **Special considerations:**
 - A. Infection control:
 - ✓ Adherence to Universal Blood and Body Fluid Precautions during use
 - ✓ Disposal of lancets, disposable equipment, and contaminated strips in proper containers at point of use
 - ✓ Proper disinfection procedure for instrumentation
 - B. Storage and handling:
 - ✓ According to manufacturer's recommendations
 - ✓ Do not use after expiration date
 - C. Complications:
 - ✓ Following proper technique, infection, and quality control procedures avoids any complications
- 5. **Regulatory issues:**
 - ✓ Quality control and preventative maintenance
 - ✓ External proficiency testing
 - ✓ Competency checks
- 6. **Procedure for Blood Glucose Testing**
 - I. Identify the need for blood glucose testing (protocols).
 - II. Assemble and prepare the proper equipment.
 - III. Prepare patient for the procedure.
 - IV. Obtain the specimen.
 - V. Perform the test according to the manufacturer's instructions.
 - VI. Document and report the results.

- VII. These guidelines are not intended to alter current protocols, but to enhance them. The use of this diagnostic aid could improve patient outcome.

Quality Control Procedure: Quality control testing will be performed weekly with a high and low quality control solution.

COURSE CONTENT MODULE II, LAB:

1. After completing Module I, Module II may be done in the field with the EMT's partner as their preceptor. No one, however, can perform any glucose testing without first completing Module I.
2. In the situation of a live patient, the EMT will be guided by their preceptor/partner through the process, if time permits.
 - ✓ Patient care is not to be compromised for the sake of an EMT learning a new procedure. The educational situation will be delayed until a more appropriate time becomes available.
3. After the EMT has been observed doing three blood glucose tests by their preceptor/partner, they are to be checked off on the check off sheet. This will give them the ability to perform the skill proficiently.
4. All EMTs will be observed from time to time doing a blood glucose test for quality improvement review.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR CHECK OFF SHEET

BLOOD GLUCOSE MONITORING BY EMTB CHECK OFF SHEET

Student's Name _____

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Date: _____ Evaluator: _____

| CRITERIA | Pts possible | Pts attained |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Assess patient and correctly identifies the need for blood glucose test. (Identifies protocols) | 2 | |
| Prepares the patient for test | 1 | |
| Assembles materials and prepares environment | 1 | |
| Calibrates instrument | 1 | |
| Obtains blood sample | 1 | |
| Correctly performs procedure according to manufacturer instructions | 1 | |
| Reports value, correct treatment suggestion | 1 | |

Total _____

Critical Criteria:

Failure to meet any of the critical criteria constitutes automatic failure. The student will discuss with the Medical Program Director prior to retesting.

_____ Fails to properly perform Blood glucose testing

_____ Performs any technique resulting in potential harm to the patient

Eight points required for passing

I attest to the accuracy and validity of the above information. I certify that the named student has met the applicable conditions put forth by Spokane County for utilization of Blood Glucose Testing.

EMS Officer or designee

Date