

BLOOD GLUCOSE DETERMINATION

1. Level: EMT, AEMT, Paramedic, RN
2. Purpose: The Glucometer should be utilized to determine blood glucose levels. This information can be used to determine if hyper or hypoglycemia is present.
3. Indications: The Glucometer should be utilized for any patient presenting with an altered mental status:
 - 3.1. Diabetic related emergencies
 - 3.2. Unresponsive (unknown etiology)
 - 3.3. Seizure
 - 3.4. Stroke
 - 3.5. Alcohol related emergencies
4. Procedure:
 - 4.1. Take Body Substance Isolation precautions.
 - 4.2. Gather and assemble necessary equipment.
 - 4.3. Open sterile 4 X 4 for use.
 - 4.4. Turn on the CBG monitor.
 - 4.5. Open alcohol prep pad.
 - 4.6. Clean the side of the tip of one finger with the alcohol prep.
 - 4.7. Wipe the same area with the sterile 4 X 4 to remove excess alcohol. Allow the remainder to dry before proceeding. (Failure to do this can dilute blood and render a low reading.)
 - 4.8. Place the extremity being used lower than the level of the heart to allow for venous pooling.
 - 4.9. Apply pressure to the prepared site with the lancet device to assure a deep enough penetration and trigger device to activate.
 - 4.10. Alternatively, obtain venous blood prior to attaching a saline lock or IV line.
 - 4.11. Dispose of sharps properly.
 - 4.12. Wipe the area again with the sterile 4 X 4 and allow a drop of blood to form.
 - 4.13. Place the strip in close proximity to the blood droplet to allow the blood to be absorbed by the strip. It is important to saturate the entire square with blood.
 - 4.14. Place a pressure bandage on the puncture site.
 - 4.15. Document the results in the vital signs section on the electronic Patient Care Record.