

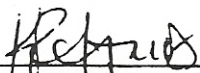
Subject: Scope of Practice/Procedure - Paramedic
Finger Stick for Blood Glucose Protocol

Associated Policies: 5323, 6514, 6515, 6516, 6517, 6518

- I. Indications
 - A. Suspected diabetic emergencies.
 - B. Any coma of unknown etiology.
 - C. Status epilepticus of uncertain etiology.
 - D. Syncope, stroke, or seizures with focal deficit.
 - E. Altered mental status.
- II. Therapeutic Effects
 - A. Gives estimate blood glucose level.
- III. Contraindications
 - A. None
- IV. Adverse Effects
 - A. None
- V. Equipment
 - A. Lancet, lancing device (optional).
 - B. Gloves and face protection, as necessary.
 - C. Antiseptic solution. (Note: alcohol may reduce the accuracy of the glucose test strip, be sure to let it dry before lancing finger).
 - D. Bandaid.
 - E. Glucose test strip for glucose determination of capillary or venous blood.
 - F. Cotton balls.
- VI. Procedure
 - A. Put on gloves and use face protection, as necessary.
 - B. Assemble all necessary supplies and equipment.
 - C. Select a suitable site (generally the dependent side of the second or third digit of either hand).
 - D. Prepare the site. Cleanse the site thoroughly with antiseptic solution. Wipe the site with a dry cotton ball.
 - E. Use your thumb proximal to the puncture site to function as a mild tourniquet and to stabilize the skin over the puncture site.
 - F. Gently puncture the site with the lancet.
 - G. Dispose of the lancet in a provided "puncture resistant" biohazard container.
 - H. "Milk" the finger by applying gentle pressure to the site, then let go, allowing blood to fill finger, then squeeze again.

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- I. Turn the finger over and allow the accumulated drop of blood to drip freely onto the strip. Do not "wipe" the blood off of the finger with the strip.
 - J. Follow manufacturer's directions on reading the glucose test strip.
 - K. Cleanse the site again with antiseptic solution. Apply a dry, sterile dressing (bandaid is fine).
- VII. Special Information
- A. If the patient is very dehydrated or has poor circulation to extremities, then the results may be inaccurate.

Approved: 

Approved as to Form: 