Subject: Procedure – All Providers
Finger Stick for Blood Glucose Policy

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 and optional lancing device.
   B. Gloves and face protection as needed.
   C. Antiseptic, cotton balls, and sterile adhesive bandage.
   D. Glucose test strip suitable for the sample type and a puncture-resistant sharps container.

VI. Procedure
   A. Put on gloves and use face protection as needed. Assemble supplies.
   B. Select the side of the index or middle finger. Clean with antiseptic and allow the site to dry completely before puncture.
   C. Stabilize the finger, puncture with the lancet, and discard the lancet in a puncture-resistant sharps container.
   D. Apply gentle, intermittent pressure to form a drop of blood. Apply the drop to the test strip without wiping the strip against the finger.
   E. Read the result according to the manufacturer's instructions. Clean the site and apply a sterile adhesive bandage.

VII. Special Information
   A. If the patient is very dehydrated or has poor circulation to extremities, then the results may be inaccurate.