

Blood Glucose Monitoring Using Strips

OBJECTIVES: The candidate will be able to rapidly determine approximate blood glucose levels when treating suspected diabetic or patients with a decreased level of consciousness or coma of unknown origin.

EQUIPMENT: Blood Glucose strips, watch, band-aid, antiseptic solution, water in wash bottle, 2x2 sterile gauze pads or cotton balls, alcohol wipes, body substance isolation, lancet,(spring loaded holder , glucose meters are optional), note pad, pen, or pencil, and timer.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA AND CONDITIONS: The candidate will be presented with a patient with a decreased level of consciousness, unknown origin, and be expected to describe and/or demonstrate the following procedures for obtaining blood glucose analysis. All “critical criteria” must demonstrate 100% accuracy for acceptable performance.

Time limit: 8 minutes

Event	Does	Does Not
1. Obtain medical direction or verbalize standing orders.		
2. Inspect for appropriate equipment and expiration date.		
3. Takes or verbalizes body substance isolation precautions.		
4. Demonstrate finding the appropriate site for blood glucose determination on an adult, (finger or earlobe).		
5. Demonstrate wiping the site with an alcohol prep and explain the rationale for waiting for the alcohol to dry, e.g., a potential false reading.		
6. Demonstrate holding the hand lower than the heart in order to allow gravity to work in your favor.		
7. Demonstrate the appropriate puncture site for a finger stick, (midway between the center of the finger pad and the side of the finger).		
8. Demonstrate the procedure for obtaining a large drop of blood, by “milking”, or stroking the finger with gentler pressure from the middle knuckle toward the finger tip, allowing at least one second between strokes.		
9. Demonstrate allowing the blood to drop in the center of the strip, and explain that one must avoid touching the drop of blood with the hands or fingers.		

Event	Does	Does Not
10. Demonstrate, using a candidates earlobe, the same gentle “milking” procedure as described in #8 above. <p style="text-align: center;">CONTINUED ON REVERSE SIDE</p>		
11. Demonstrate allowing a drop of blood to fall on the appropriate portion of the strip and prepare strip for reading.		
12. Demonstrate the proper reading of the results against the container label according to the instructions on the container (or place strip in an electronic blood glucose determination device for reading).		
13. Demonstrate recording your results.		
14. Demonstrate proper disposal of all contaminated supplies.		

CRITICAL CRITERIA

- ___ Failure to take or verbalizes body substance isolation
- ___ Failure to check expiration date on strip package
- ___ Failure to cleanse puncture site
- ___ Failure to properly perform procedure according to all manufacturers instructions
- ___ Failure to properly dispose of expended materials
- ___ Failure to disinfect spring-load device for peripheral blood if used
- ___ Failure to successfully perform procedure and within allotted time limit