

# Marquette County EMS Medical Control Authority

## Finger Stick for Blood Glucose Procedure

Part 1, Sect. 2

Page: 1 of 1

---

- A. Indication: To establish guidelines for determination of a patient's blood glucose level via a finger stick.
- B. Eligible Personnel: Any licensed EMS personnel with the State of Michigan working on an EMS service. In service training must be completed prior to service utilizing equipment.
- C. Equipment Needed:
1. Universal precautions supplies as necessary.
  2. Lancet.
  3. Betadine wipe. (Note alcohol may reduce the accuracy of the "chemstrip").
  4. Sterile dressings.
  5. Chemstrip, Dextro-stik, or Visidex brand strip for glucose determination of capillary or venous blood.
  6. Glucose monitoring device (optional).
- D. Procedure:
1. Universal Precautions
  2. Assemble all necessary supplies and equipment.
  3. Select a suitable site. Generally the tip of the second or third digit of either hand.
  4. Prepare the site. Cleanse the fingertip thoroughly with antiseptic solution, preferably an iodine solution. Wipe the fingertip dry with a sterile dressing.
  5. Use your thumb proximal to the puncture site to function as a mild tourniquet and to stabilize the skin over the puncture site.
  6. Gently puncture the site with the lancet.
  7. Dispose of the lancet in a provided "puncture resistant" biohazard container.
  8. Continue holding gentle pressure on the fingertip until there is a large drop of blood accumulated on the fingertip.
  9. Turn the finger over and allow the accumulated drops of blood to drip freely onto the strip.
  10. Do not "wipe" the blood off of the finger with the strip.
  11. Follow manufacturers directions on reading the "chem-strip" or "dextro-stick."
  12. Cleanse the fingertip again with antiseptic solution. Apply a dry, sterile dressing.
  13. Follow manufacturer's directions for glucose monitoring device.
- E. Documentation:
1. Who attempted/performed task?
  2. Chemstrip, glucose monitor results and time. Relay pertinent information to hospital.

### AUTHENTICATION AND APPROVAL



---

Marquette County EMS Medical Director

8/12/1999

Date

Original Approval: 8/12/99