WARD
BLOOD GLUCOSE MONITORING
COMPETENCY IN THE PROCEDURE OF
WARD BLOOD GLUCOSE MONITORING

Objectives:

Following a tutorial, demonstration of the appropriate blood glucose meter, further and supervised practice, the participant will be able to:

- Identify the indications for performing a blood glucose test.
- State the importance of checking that strip and meter codes are the same.
- Describe the process for changing the meter code.
- Describe and demonstrate the correct testing procedure as per the Operator’s Manual, including the correct technique, for obtaining a capillary blood sample for both blood glucose.
- Correctly document the blood glucose result.
- Describe the limitations of the blood glucose meter.
- Identify the aspects of operation which provide inaccurate results for the specific blood glucose meter.
- Describe the frequency and procedure for performing Quality Control checks.
- State why control checks are required.
- State appropriate response to elevated blood ketone levels (Wd 4, A/E Wd 3 ONLY).

Assessment Process:

Following self assessment, the participant will negotiate competency assessment with an assessor.

On completion of the assessment, the signed assessment form will be forwarded to the Nurse Teacher to be filed in the Personnel record.
Teaching Strategies:

Resources will include:
- Tutorial / demonstration
- Policy and Procedure
- Operator’s Manual
- Clinical Supervision

Assessors:
- May include a Clinical Nurse Specialist or Senior Nurse appointed by the Unit Manager to undertake competency assessment.
- Clinical Resource Personnel involved in the Graduate Nurse Program
- Nurse Teacher

Ann Morris
Diabetes Nurse Educator

Further Reading


Dunning T (1997) Update on Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus. Pulse Information Sheet No 2. RCNA

# BLOOD GLUCOSE METER

## COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competency Statement</th>
<th>Instructional Strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrates proficiency in the management and use of a blood glucose meter</td>
<td>1. Policy and Procedure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Inservice Lectures / Operator’s Manual / Demonstration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Self Assessment / Further Reading</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Criteria</th>
<th>Clinical Performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Competent Unsuccessful</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Identifies the indications for doing a blood glucose test. States normal range for blood glucose test

2. States the importance of checking the strip and meter codes are the same. Describes or performs the process for changing the meter code

3. Describes the correct testing procedure as per the Operator’s Manual

4. Demonstrates the following functions:
   - Collects equipment
   - Checks correct code chip against strip.
   - Removes strip from foil packaging and insert strip correctly into BGL meter
   - Pricks patient’s finger
   - Obtains drop of blood using correct technique.
   - Ensures that sufficient blood is drawn into strip
   - Records result correctly
   - Disposes of sharps correctly

5. States the nursing actions initiated when the results have been obtained:
   - If blood glucose level is below 3.0 mmol/l
   - If blood glucose level is above 15.0 mmol/l
   - If the patient is on a sliding scale of insulin
   - If the patient is on an insulin infusion
   - If the patient is in the initial post-operative phase back in the ward

6. States the limitations of the specific blood glucose meter
   - Ideal temperature range
   - Source of sample
   - Technique variables

## EVALUATION

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<tr>
<th>Competent</th>
<th>Unsuccessful</th>
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</thead>
</table>

Date: ..............................

Signatures: ......................................................

(Assessor/Nurse Teacher)

........................................................

(Participant)