

Kittitas County Prehospital Care Protocols

Subject: BLOOD GLUCOSE CHECK (EMT)

INDICATIONS FOR USE:

- Patient has a history of diabetes and could have an abnormal glucose level.
- Patient has an altered mental status of unknown origin.
- **Patient has experienced seizure like activity.**

CONTRAINDICATIONS FOR USE:

- Test strip is out of date.
- Use of strips or instrumentation has failed QC testing and with no corrective action taken.

PROCEDURE:

- 1) Universal precautions/BSI shall be in place
- 2) Assemble and prepare equipment (glucometer, test strip, lancet, alcohol prep pad, 2x2 gauze, and/or band-aid)
- 3) Prepare patient for the procedure. Selected finger (second, third or fourth digit) should be lower than the level of the heart and appropriately scrubbed with alcohol prep pad. Let dry.
- 4) Obtain specimen. Advise patient to look away (to prevent flinching movement that can cause more damage) and activate lancet needle to pierce the skin according to manufacturer's instructions.
- 5) Perform blood glucose test according to manufacturer's instructions
- 6) When sufficient blood is obtained, clean the area with the 2x2 gauze as needed to begin the coagulation process. Apply a band-aid.
- 7) If the glucose level is **below 60mg/dL**, the patient is awake and has an intact gag reflex then oral glucose should be administered according to protocol.
- 8) Document the glucose testing results and treatment on the patient's medical incident report for the continuum of care.
- 9) **Per online Medical Control, patient may be left at home in the care of a responsible adult when;**
 - **Patient does not want to be transported**
 - **Patient is a known diabetic and is advised to follow-up with healthcare provider**
 - **Patient is witnessed eating a sandwich**
 - **Patient's follow-up blood glucose level is at least 100 mg/dL**

Updates in **bold**.

Effective Date: 5/10/2013 (DOH approved)

Medical Program Director: Signed copy on file (J. Horsley, MD)