

Infection Control for Diabetes Blood Glucose Monitoring Procedures in Long-Term Care Homes

Failure to follow proper infection control procedures during glucose monitoring can put residents at risk for transmission of hepatitis B virus and other bloodborne pathogens.

General Infection Control.

- ❑ Trays or carts used to deliver medications or supplies should remain outside resident rooms. Do not carry supplies and medications in pockets.
- ❑ Maintain supplies and equipment such as fingerstick devices and glucometers within individual resident rooms if possible.
- ❑ Unused supplies and medications taken to a resident's bedside should not be used for another resident.

Fingerstick capillary blood sampling devices must never be shared between residents.

- ❑ The lancets used in these devices must not be re-used.
- ❑ Restrict use of fingerstick capillary blood sampling devices to individual patients. Consider selecting single-use lancets that permanently retract upon puncture.
- ❑ Dispose of used lancets and disposable fingerstick devices at the point of use in an approved sharps container.

Each resident should have his/her own glucometer.

- ❑ If the glucometer is used for different residents, it must be disinfected with a low-level disinfectant after each use as per the Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC) Best Practices for Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization of Medical Equipment/Devices in All Health Care Settings. (Available at <http://www.oahpp.ca/resources/documents/pidac/2010-02%20BP%20Cleaning%20Disinfection%20Sterilization.pdf>)

The health care worker must ensure proper hand hygiene practices during glucose monitoring:

- ❑ Wear gloves during procedure.
- ❑ Change gloves between patients and after performing fingerstick blood sampling.
- ❑ Perform hand hygiene (handwashing with soap and water or the use of alcohol-based hand rub) immediately after removal of gloves and before touching supplies to be used on other residents.

For further information, please contact the Communicable Disease and Sexual Health Service at 519-663-5317 ext. 2330 or go to www.healthunit.com

Information adapted from:

Centers for Disease Control. *Infection Prevention during Blood Glucose Monitoring and Insulin Administration*. Retrieved February 27, 2013 from www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/blood-glucose-monitoring.html

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