BLS PROVIDER ASSISTING ALS WITH GLUCOMETER

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INDICATIONS:

- Altered mental status and/or neurological dysfunction
- Known diabetic with confusion, weakness, tachycardia, or flushing

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

Possible skin infection present at sample site

EQUIPMENT:

- FDA approved glucometer
- Appropriate cleansing wipes, such as an alcohol swab
- Sterile 2X2 or 4X4 gauze
- Sterile lancets
- Small clean or sterile bandage or band-aid
- Appropriate sharps disposal container

PROCEDURE:

- 1. Use appropriate PPE for blood exposure
- 2. Prepare sample site (side of fingertip pad or lateral side of heel of infant) with appropriate cleansing wipe and allow to air dry
- Remove a new test strip from container and insert in the glucometer per manufacturer's guidelines assure the code on the glucometer LED screen matches the test strip vial
- Grasp the finger near the prepared site, keeping the site below the level of the heart if possible. Using the lancet, quickly prick the side of the finger or heel until a drop of blood is formed. Wipe away the first drop of blood with gauze and allow the puncture site to form a second blood drop.
- Place the second blood drop onto the test strip in the glucometer per manufacturer's guidelines
- 6. Cover patient sample site with a sterile bandage or band-aid
- When blood glucose value is displayed, record and document the value
- Dispose of the lancet in an approved sharps disposal container and the test strip into a biohazard container

DOCUMENTATION:

- Time blood glucose value was obtained
- Blood glucose value

NOTES:

- OCEMS accredited EMT providers may assist ALS personnel to obtain a blood glucose value using a glucometer at the direction of ALS personnel.
- Do not obtain blood samples from bleeding wounds or blood from the nose, ears or mouth
- Follow the glucometer manufacturer's guidelines regarding calibration and cleaning
- Assure that the test strips remain in an airtight container and are not expired
- Refer to treatment guideline M-20 regarding appropriate field treatment of the patient with altered mental status

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