



**Central New York
Regional Emergency Medical Services
Program**

Policy Statement

Serving: Cayuga, Cortland, Onondaga, Oswego and Tompkins Counties

No. 08 - 02

Date: 07/08

Subject:
Blood Glucometry for Basic
Life Support Agencies and
Providers

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Supersedes/Updates: Original

Policy:

The New York State Department of Health Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (NYS DOH BEMS) Policy Statement 05-04 allows the use of glucometers by Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) in Basic Life Support (BLS) EMS agencies to check patient blood glucose levels. This approval was given under the conditions that the EMS service wishing to use a glucometer at the BLS level, be granted approval by the local REMAC, each EMT complete an approved training program and the service apply and be granted a Limited Laboratory Registration. BLS providers in Advanced Life Support (ALS) agencies must also complete the training prior to performing this skill. In order to provide this additional care, a BLS or ALS agency must complete the following items and be approved by REMAC before allowing their BLS providers to perform this skill. BLS and ALS agencies that already have their CLIA authorization number are able to skip to Step 1 C.

Step 1

- A. Complete the Limited Laboratory Registration form (DOH-4081).
- B. Send this document including the registration fee to:

NYS DOH
Wadsworth Center
Clinical Laboratory Evaluation Program
P.O. Box 509
Albany, NY 12201-0509

- C. Write up agency Policies and Procedures to include the following:
 - Training and documentation of authorized users.
 - Quality Assurance program, include appropriateness review by Agency Medical Director.

- Documentation of control testing process.
 - Storage of glucometer and proper disposal of sharps..
- D. Complete a training program offered by a NYS DOH CIC, CLI or Central New York EMS (CNYEMS) CME Evaluator for potential users.

Step 2

- A. Submit a completed "Central New York REMAC BLS Agency Application to Perform Blood Glucose Monitoring" to the CNYEMS Program Agency for review and submission at the next REMAC meeting. Include with the application:
- Letter of recommendation from the Agency Medical Director.
 - Copy of form DOH-4081 with the CLIA authorization number received from DOH.
 - Copy of Policies and Procedures as outlined above.
 - Updated Medical Director Verification form DOH-4362.

- Purpose: To establish a uniformed procedure to determine a safe and effective manner for Basic EMT's to determine Blood Glucose levels in the Pre-Hospital setting.
- Education: All EMT's will be required to attend a training session instructed by a NYS DOH CIC, CLI or Central New York EMS (CNYEMS) CME Evaluator utilizing the Power Point presentation titled "***Blood Glucose Measuring Devices in the Pre-Hospital Setting***" as adopted by the CNYEMS's REMAC. A practical evaluation with a signed attendance roster will be filed in the agencies training files. The provider will take an on-line test via the CNYEMS website upon completion of the training.
- Quality Control: The agency must designate an individual who will complete and maintain records of quality control testing.
- Definitions: *Basic EMT* – defined in Article 30 of the New York State Public Health Law.
Hypoglycemia – Blood Glucose level that is less than 80 mg/dL.
Altered Mental Status – GCS of 14 or less and *not* alert and oriented.
ALS Intercept – Care provided by an AEMT-CC or Paramedic.

Procedure:

1. If patient presents with an altered mental status, request an ALS intercept.
2. Follow NYS DOH BLS protocol for the General Approach to Medical Emergencies prioritizing and managing Airway, Breathing, and Circulation.
3. Obtain a complete set of Vital Signs; include O2 saturation if available.
4. Check Blood Glucose and place lancet in an approved sharps container.
5. If Blood Glucose is greater than 80 mg/dL and the patient has an altered mental status, confirm ALS is enroute and monitor the A, B, C's.
6. If hypoglycemic (<80 mg/dL) and awake (A or V on AVPU) with the ability to maintain their airway; administer oral glucose consistent with NYS BLS Protocol. Repeat Vital Signs and AVPU after 5 minutes.
7. If completely alert and oriented, request medical control approval to cancel ALS.
8. Continue on going assessment consistent with current NYS BLS Protocols.

DO NOT DELAY TRANSPORT!