

OPERATING STANDARD

SUBJECT/TITLE: Point of Care Blood Glucose Testing for Undergraduate Nursing Students		PAGE: 1 of 2
RELATED PROCEDURE: Supervision of Clinical Competencies for Undergraduate Students		DATE ESTABLISHED: October 2013
AUTHORIZATION: Practice Procedure & Guidelines Sub-Committee Undergraduate Programs Committee Nursing Council	DATE LAST REVIEWED: November 13, 2025 January 22, 2026 March 25, 2026	LAST REVISED: November 13, 2025

Purpose:

To establish a protocol for preparing students to perform blood glucose testing in clinical practice areas.

Applicability:

This operating standard applies to all nursing students in the undergraduate program

Definitions:

“**Nursing Instructors (NI)**” refers to any faculty member who teaches an undergraduate level on-campus or off-campus practice course within the Faculty of Nursing.

“**Nursing Practice Course Coordinator (NPCC)**” refers to any faculty member who is the Instructor of Record for an undergraduate level nursing practice course.

“**Point of Care Testing (POCT)**” refers to those analytical patient testing activities provided outside the physical facilities of the clinical laboratory. POCT may not require permanent dedicated space. POCT is typically performed by clinical personnel whose primary training is not in the clinical laboratory sciences (Alberta Health Services, 2021).

“**UNDER INDIRECT SUPERVISION**” means that the Nursing Instructor/ Preceptor (or a practice site nurse at the discretion of the Nursing Instructor/ Preceptor) is readily available on the unit or in the same location for guidance and consultation but is not directly at the elbow of the nursing student, for only that which falls within the supervising qualified healthcare professional’s scope of practice.

Process:

1. NIs trained in the use of the blood glucose meters will deliver the necessary teaching to students in acute care setting in undergraduate nursing programs where POCT blood glucose testing applies, using the training materials, checklist and quiz supplied by Alberta Health Services (AHS).
2. Students will complete a self-directed on-line training. And complete the checklist by acknowledging each point covered in the presentation. Both The NI and the students will sign off once completed and student has demonstrated understanding of the checklist points.
3. NIs will administer the quiz supplied by AHS to the students. In accordance with AHS stipulation for their employees, the students will need to achieve 85% to be allowed to perform the skill in clinical.
4. Students in acute care setting in undergraduate nursing programs where POCT blood glucose testing applies will only be allowed to perform blood glucose testing with the UC/MHC assigned barcode at their NI's elbow.
5. Students in Term 8 may perform blood glucose POCT (with the assigned UC/MHC barcode) under direct supervision of their Preceptor. Once deemed clinically competent by their Preceptor, the student may perform blood glucose POCT Under Indirect Supervision.

Management/Retention

1. Following successful completion of POCT, students will submit their completed tests and checklists to the Clinical Placement Specialist via D2L.
2. The Clinical Placement Specialist will check to ensure that all forms have been submitted and that they have been fully completed.
3. The following messaging is emailed instructors and students.

Please complete the QUIZ and CHECKLIST.

(Both the trainee and the trainer need to sign the checklist. Digital signatures are acceptable)

For undergraduate students:

Access the quiz by clicking on "Assessments", "Quizzes" and then choosing the "Roche Accu-Check Inform II Glucose Meter Quiz"

Please submit a screenshot of your completed online quiz as follows:

E-mail a copy to your Nursing Instructor (NI).

Upload the quiz screenshot to your course D2L in the glucose meter drop box.

Your NI will sign off the checklist once you have demonstrated understanding of the checklist points.

You will only be permitted to perform this test at the 'elbow' of your NI when in the practice setting.

Points of Emphasis:

1. Student testing must occur on an annual basis.
2. Ensure students have a clear understanding of the procedure of performing blood glucose meter testing.
3. Instructors and students **must use the UC/MHC barcode**, issued by AHS on an annual basis.
4. No neonatal/infant heel pokes permitted. Term 8 students to be assessed according to CRNA and clinical site/unit policy.
5. Students will document the results of the blood glucose test and controls test they perform in the appropriate record.
6. Out of Sequence students will be required to be retrained.

References:

[POINT OF CARE TESTING \(POCT\) Policy PS-90](#)