

POLICY

SUBJECT/TITLE: Point of Care Blood Glucose Testing for Undergraduate Nursing Students (Calgary Campus and Medicine Hat College Site)		PAGE: 1 of 2
RELATED POLICY: Specialized Clinical Competencies for Undergraduate Students (Calgary Campus and Medicine Hat College Site)	DATE ESTABLISHED: October 2013	
AUTHORIZATION: Practice Policy and Procedure Committee Undergraduate Programs Committee Nursing Council	DATE LAST REVIEWED: May 11, 2020 (editorial changes) February 15, 2017 April 18, 2017	

Purpose:

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

Applicability:

This procedure applies to all nursing students in the undergraduate program (Calgary Campus and Medicine Hat College Site).

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, 2013).

“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 Nursing 489 and 589 students, using the training materials, checklist and quiz supplied by Alberta Health Services (AHS).
2. Students will complete the checklist by acknowledging each point covered during presentation by the NI. The NI 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 Terms 5, 6 and 7 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 NPCC.
2. The NPCC will check to ensure that all forms have been submitted and that they have been fully completed.
3. The NPCC must submit all tests and checklists, alphabetically arranged, to the Coordinator, Faculty Administrative Processes, for entry into HSPnet.

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.
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:

Alberta Health Services Definition of Point of Care Testing. Retrieved from:
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/lab/page3314.aspx>