



# GUIDELINE

<b>SUBJECT/TITLE:</b> Point of Care Blood Glucose Testing for Undergraduate Nursing Students at Medicine Hat College		<b>PAGE:</b> 1 of 2	
<b>RELATED POLICY:</b> Specialized Clinical Competencies for Undergraduate Students at Medicine Hat College		<b>DATE ESTABLISHED:</b> October 2013	
<b>AUTHORIZATION:</b> Practice Policy and Procedure Committee Undergraduate Programs Committee Nursing Council		<b>DATE LAST REVIEWED:</b> May 3, 2019 (at MHC) November 8, 2021	<b>LAST REVISED:</b> November 8, 2021 January 21, 2022 (at MHC)

**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 (both Medicine Hat and Calgary).

**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 supervision 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 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 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 POT 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 following messaging is emailed to 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:

Upload the quiz screenshot to Blackboard in the glucose meter assignment 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.
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:  
<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/lab/Page3314.aspx>