

► Blood Glucose Testing

Glucose testing is to be done on all patients presenting with an altered level of consciousness from either medical or traumatic causes. Patients with known diabetes and suspected hypoglycemia (e.g., diaphoresis, weakness) should also be tested. Testing may be done from a digit blood sample or a venous sample.

» **Indications**

- Any patient with an altered level of consciousness
- Any patient with signs or symptoms suggestive of hypoglycemia

» **Equipment**

- ✓ Alcohol Swabs
- ✓ Finger lancets (for digit samples)
- ✓ Cotton Balls/sterile gauze pads
- ✓ Glucose Testing device and strips

» **Procedure**

- 1) If obtaining blood sample via finger stick:
 - a. Cleanse finger with alcohol swab.
 - b. Puncture finger tip with lancet.
 - c. Place drop of blood on glucose test strip per manufacturer's instructions.
 - d. Place gauze/cotton ball on puncture site with pressure to stop bleeding.
 - e. Use glucose testing device per manufacturer's instructions.
 - f. If blood sugar is less than or equal to 60mg/dl, give Dextrose as specified in field treatment guidelines.
- 2) If obtaining blood sample via venipuncture (e.g., at IV start), follow steps c-f above.