

EMT Standing Orders for Glucometry

Glucometry is an approved protocol but optional by individual departments.

Those who choose to offer Glucometry by EMT-B personnel must be participating in the SPHERE Program.

Effective January 2009

INDICATIONS

1. Any time an EMT feels that the blood sugar level needs to be assessed to aid in the evaluation of the patient or in the identification of possible diabetes.
2. Any time an EMT encounters a patient with an altered level of consciousness or with disorientation. This may include patients with the following:
 - Unconsciousness
 - Suspected diabetic-related problem
 - Signs and symptoms of stroke
 - Suspicion of drug or alcohol intoxication

CONTRAINDICATIONS

1. Children less than 5 years of age.

USE AND APPLICATION

1. Perform blood glucose evaluation after the ABCs and initial assessment have been completed.
2. Perform the testing procedure as outlined in the instructions for your specific device.
3. Record all readings on the incident response form.
4. If a patient is treated with oral glucose per Washington State EMT-B Protocol, you must reassess the patient's blood between 5-10 minutes post administration of oral glucose.
5. Patients who take oral medications for diabetes who are initially found to be hypoglycemic should be strongly advised to seek further evaluation by a physician due the high likelihood of repeated hypoglycemia secondary to long medication half-life.
6. Patients who take insulin (e.g., injected, pump) may be safely left at home if:
 - a. They respond completely AND
 - b. If someone will be in attendance AND
 - c. If they have a repeat glucose level that is **at least 60 mg/dl**
7. If the target glucose level is not met initially, EMTs may consider repeating administration of oral glucose and repeating glucometry in several minutes.
8. All patients **must receive after-care instructions (A CI)** if they are not being transported to the hospital. Additionally, the EMT must record:
 - a. Initial and final glucose levels
 - b. That ACI were left with patient
 - c. If patient has a history of diabetes
 - d. If patient is on diabetes medication

Under no circumstances should the presence of a blood glucose monitor detract from basic patient care. (e.g., ABCs)