

# Ensuring Safe Injection Practices during Blood Glucose Screening in Community Settings

Safe injection practices are critical to ensure the safety of staff and patients during blood glucose screening. The best practices listed below apply to community settings where finger stick procedures for blood glucose screening are performed, including clinics, health fairs, shelters, detention facilities, schools, work sites, and camps.

## Finger Stick Devices

- Use only single-use, disposable, auto-disabling finger stick devices.  
*These devices also may be called "safety" lancets.*
- Never use finger stick devices (such as lancet holder or penlet devices) for more than one person.  
*Even if lancets are changed and the device is cleaned and disinfected, these devices must not be used on more than one person.*
- Dispose of used lancets/finger stick devices in appropriate Sharps container immediately after use.

## Blood Glucose Meters

- Use only blood glucose meters approved for use on more than one person (see package insert to determine if the meter is approved for use on more than one person).  
*If the manufacturer does not specify that the meter can be used for more than one person and how the meter should be cleaned and disinfected after each use, then it should never be shared.*
- Contact the manufacturer to determine what products, meeting the criteria specified by the FDA, are compatible with the meter prior to using any EPA-registered disinfectant for disinfection purposes. If the manufacturer does not provide this information then the meter should not be used for multiple patients.
  - Note: 70% ethanol solutions are not effective against viral bloodborne pathogens and the use of 10% bleach solutions may lead to physical degradation of the meter.
- Clean and disinfect the meter after every use, per the manufacturer's instructions.
  - Clean the meter to remove all visible soil or organic material (e.g., blood) using the cleaning product; meter must be cleaned thoroughly **before** it can be disinfected
  - Disinfect the meter; disinfection product must be applied and remain on the surface precisely according to label instructions

## Training and Education

- Provide infection prevention and control education and training to everyone performing blood glucose screening, including:
  - Skin preparation and blood glucose screening procedures
  - Use of gloves
    - Remove gloves between every patient; dispose of gloves in regular trash
    - Change gloves after contact with potentially blood-contaminated objects or finger stick wounds **before** touching clean surfaces
  - Hand hygiene: Use alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water if hands are visibly soiled
    - After each patient contact
    - After contact with visible blood or body fluids
    - Before touching medical supplies intended for use on other patients
  - Cleaning and disinfection procedures
  - Process for immediate reporting of:
    - Lapses in cleaning and disinfection processes
    - Blood/body fluid exposures and needle stick/sharps injuries
- Regularly assess compliance with safe injection practices and infection prevention and control recommendations.



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