



Health Advisory: Safe Practices for Blood Glucose Screening Events

Minnesota Department of Health Tue June 10 1:15 CDT 2014

Action Steps:

Local and tribal health departments: Please forward to all hospitals, clinics and nursing homes in your jurisdiction. Please also share with any community organization that you're aware is planning a blood glucose screening event, such as faith-based organizations, colleges or universities.

People organizing blood glucose screening events:

- Review your blood glucose screening protocols
- Ensure you are following the package insert for all equipment

Almost all blood glucose testing equipment available at most pharmacies is designed for single person use and should never be used on more than one person. Use on multiple people can result in individuals being exposed to other people's blood. In rare cases, this has led to transmission of hepatitis B and could potentially transmit hepatitis C and HIV. Safe injection practices are critical to ensure the safety of staff and patients during blood glucose screening.

Groups performing blood glucose screening should:

- Use only blood glucose meters approved for use on more than one person (see package insert). Clean and disinfect the meter according to the package insert after every person. If the package insert does not specify that the meter can be used for more than one person, then it should never be shared.
- Use only single-use disposable, auto-disabling finger stick devices; dispose in Sharps container immediately after use.
- Never use finger stick devices such as lancet holder or penlet devices for more than one person.
- Always wear disposable gloves; change gloves between patients and discard gloves in regular trash.
- Perform hand hygiene (use alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water if hands look dirty)
 - Before touching patient
 - Before putting on gloves
 - Immediately after removing gloves
 - Before touching medical supplies to be used on other patients
- Clean and disinfect the glucose meter after every use, per the manufacturer's instructions

More details on safe injection practices during blood glucose screening can be found at:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/infectioncontrol/is/index.html>

Additional information:

Infection Prevention during Blood Glucose Monitoring and Insulin Administration:

<http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/blood-glucose-monitoring.html>

FDA Statement on Use of Fingertick Devices on More Than One Person Poses Risk for Transmitting Bloodborne Pathogens: <http://www.fda.gov/medicaldevices/safety/alertsandnotices/ucm224025.htm>

The Minnesota Department of Health Diabetes Program:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/healthimprovement/working-together/who-we-are/diabetes.html>