

New Nova Stat Strip Glucometer FAQs:

1. The meters are constantly sending out “inquiries” to see if we’ve had new patients added (this happens every 10 minutes). This feature is called an ADT feed. This causes the batteries to wear down rather quickly (~4 hours is about max life). The meters should be docked in the totes & the totes should stay in the bases to keep them charged.
 - a. Leaving the meter out of the tote may extend battery life for a little while longer, but the meter battery will still die. The meter is always checking for communication. Even if the screen goes dark, it really is only going to sleep and not truly turning off.
 - b. If a patient armband is scanned & still shows as invalid, you can do one of two things:
 - i. Re-dock the meter (it could be that the patient was added since it last checked for new patients), or
 - ii. Run the test using the downtime override button.
2. If the meters are not docked they don’t receive the new patient info. This results in increased downtime override issues. **Please keep the meters docked!**
3. There are FIVE batteries in each tote. There is ONE battery in each meter. These batteries ARE interchangeable. A dead battery from a meter can be swapped for one from a tote (presumably NOT dead) in a pinch.
 - a. I have also ordered enough spare batteries so that there will be one spare battery for **each** meter. These can be stored in the base, where they will remain charged. I will be bringing them out to the floors as soon as they arrive & are unpacked!
4. There are 2 barcodes on our patient armbands now.
 - a. One is a 1D (one dimensional) barcode and looks like this: ||| || | | | | | | | |
That barcode contains the medical record number and that is the barcode staff should be scanning.
 - b. The other is the new one that is 2D (two dimensional) and looks like a little square with smaller black squares inside of it. The information that is generated when the glucometer scans this 2D barcode is seven characters long and typically starts with AC and ends with 5 numbers. That is the Med Admin barcode and is **NOT** the MRN. We made some changes to the programming in the meters so that they should not read anything beginning with any letters. This should stop them from reading the 2D barcodes now.
5. QC vials will be distributed each quarter by the lab. They will come to the units PRE-DATED with their 3-month expiration date.
 - a. The next round of vials will come in early April.
6. Strip vials now have a 6-month outdate. There is space on each vial to write in the open date & the new expiration date. This **MUST** be done each time a vial is OPENED!
 - a. The strips are obtained from the main lab on each campus just like before.
7. **Troubleshooting & Issues:** Please email kerstin.halverson@childrensmn.org with any issues. ☺ By using email to alert me of the issue, I can then call or email back with a response.

