Obtaining Blood Glucose Samples
Tips and Tricks

Recent safety learning reports (SLRs) have identified problems when operating glucometers and incorrect practices when obtaining a Point of Care Test (POCT) for glucose. Please review these reminders to help obtain samples.

The glucometer will not work or I am receiving an error message. What do I do?
- Be sure both levels of quality control (QC) have been completed. Both must be completed daily or the machine will not perform a patient test. Each unit should have a process for QC completion.
- The first drop of blood should be wiped away and not used.
- Be sure you have a good drop of blood before touching the strip to the blood so that the blood can “wick” fully on the strip the first time.
- See attached manufacturer references to troubleshoot error messages.

Can I obtain a sample from somewhere other than the fingers or heels in infants?
- Samples obtained from other sites may give a blood glucose result that differs or “lags behind” the results obtained from the fingers. To make treatment decisions we need accurate and consistent readings.
- The sites approved by Children’s for obtaining glucose POCTs are the heel for infants not yet walking, or a fingertip for children >12 months of age.
- Use the palmer surface of the index, middle or ring finger.
- Care must be taken particularly when drawing blood from infants as the distance from skin surface to bone is quite small and the bone can easily be injured.
What lancet device do I use for fingersticks?
- Two finger glucose lancets are available –
  - **Pink** (21G, 1.8mm) and **Purple** (30G, 1.5mm)

What lancet device do I use for heelsticks?
- NICU heel glucose lancet

What can help me to get a better sample?
- Warming the site prior to obtaining the sample can help.
- Hold the sample site below the level of the heart, if possible.
1 From Home screen, press Login.

2 SCAN Operator ID and press Accept.

3 From Patient Test screen, press Accept.

4 SCAN Strip lot number and press Accept.

5 SCAN Patient ID - the one that looks like ||| || ||||| || - and press Accept.

6 Insert Test Strip into Meter.

7 Wash patient’s hand thoroughly and massage finger to stimulate blood flow.

8 Use safety lancet to puncture finger. Squeeze finger to form blood drop.

9 Touch strip to blood drop. Result will appear within 6 seconds.

10 Warning!

   The test strip must fill completely upon touching the blood droplet. If the test strip does not fill completely, do not touch the blood droplet a second time. Discard the test strip and repeat the test with a new test strip.

11 To accept a result press Accept. <50 or >300 ALWAYS requires a comment! Touch Comment & select appropriate comment. Touch Accept TWICE to save comment & send with result to patient chart.

12 To review other results, Press Review from Patient Test screen.
1. Low Battery

Battery low. Place meter into charging/docking station.

2. Test Strip Removed

Test has been cancelled.

3. Temperature

Meter will only work in a temperature range of 59°F-104°F (15°C-40°C).

4. Bad Sample

Insert new strip and repeat test.

5. Strip Rejected

Occurs after test strip insertion or during analysis. Insert another strip and repeat the test.

6. Flow Error

Either insufficient sample or the sample was applied incorrectly. Repeat test with a new strip.

7. Transfer Failed

Meter is unable to connect to the transfer computer. Contact your Point of Care Coordinator for assistance.

8. Transfer Failed

Meter was removed before data transfer was complete. Re-dock the meter.