

Bedside Blood Glucose Monitoring in Hospitals

The modern management of hospitalized diabetic patients requires a blood glucose determination at the bedside. This procedure can be performed by nonlaboratory personnel (e.g., a nurse) who must be well trained when a quick, reasonably accurate determination of the blood glucose level is needed.

The rapidity with which the test can be performed and the fact that it necessitates only a fingerstick and not venipuncture can provide better management of diabetic patients and can conceivably shorten the hospital stay. The bedside measurement of glucose in these circumstances requires 1) a training program for those personnel doing the testing, 2) a well-defined procedures manual, 3) quality-control procedures, and 4) a fixed maintenance schedule for the equipment. Bedside glucose monitoring should only be used for patient management decisions and not to establish the diagnosis of diabetes.

.....

ORIGINALLY APPROVED OCTOBER 1985. REVIEWED SEPTEMBER 1987.
REPRINTED FROM *DIABETES CARE* 9:89, 1986.
COPYRIGHT 1986 BY THE AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION.