



# Practice Briefs

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## Should I verify the competency of the healthcare workers who are performing assisted blood glucose monitoring?

**YES.**

Bloodborne pathogen outbreaks associated with assisted blood glucose monitoring have been described in the literature. Therefore, you should verify competency of staff during blood glucose monitoring. Blood glucose meters that are shared among residents have the greatest potential for transmitting bacteria. Cleaning and disinfection of these meters after each use is essential to eliminate risk for transmission. The device should be cleaned and disinfected after every use, per manufacturer's instructions, to prevent carry-over of blood and infectious agents. Dedicating a meter to a single resident will also eliminate risk for transmission. More information can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/blood-glucose-monitoring.html>.<sup>1</sup> Healthcare workers often underestimate the risk of blood borne pathogen transmission during assisted blood glucose monitoring. Please share this information with all of those healthcare workers who are involved with assisted blood glucose monitoring at your facility.

The CMS Infection Control Worksheets are a great place to start with audits. Point of Care Devices (e.g. Blood Glucose Meter, INR Monitor) audits start on page 39, and here is a link: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-15-12-Attachment-1.pdf><sup>2</sup>

### References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Infection Prevention during Blood Glucose Monitoring and Insulin Administration. Last updated 8/30/16. <http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/blood-glucose-monitoring.html>. Accessed 7/25/17.
2. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Hospital Infection Control Worksheet (n.d.). <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-15-12-Attachment-1.pdf>. Accessed 7/25/17.

*ICAP is a cooperative effort of UNMC/Nebraska Medicine and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. "ICAP Practice Briefs" are intended to provide evidence-based guidance on infection prevention issues; check linked references directly for the most current and more detailed information.*