

Policy:

Use of sliding scale insulin orders requiring blood sugar fingertstick determinations shall be limited to the greatest extent possible. Use of such orders shall be reserved to brief periods as an accepted method of assessing basal (long acting) insulin dosing requirements, or for use at times where a resident may be determined to be metabolically unstable, and shall be discontinued as soon as possible upon determination of an appropriate basal insulin dose by the licensed practitioner.

Obtaining a single, one-time fingertstick blood sugar determination in cases of suspected acute hyperglycemic or hypoglycemic events shall be permitted in order to quickly and accurately determine appropriate insulin dosing (in hyperglycemia) or hypoglycemic management of the resident. The Critical Value range for blood glucose shall be defined as below 60mg/dl and above 350mg/dl.

The blood glucose meter shall be cleaned after each use as per manufacturer's specifications.

PROCEDURE:

Responsible Party

Prescriber

Action

1. Will order single, one time fingertstick blood sugar determinations as deemed to be clinically necessary and appropriate.
2. Will order a sliding scale insulin regimen only for a duration necessary for purposes of assessing the need to increase or decrease the resident's basal insulin dose; or in cases where the resident is determined to be metabolically unstable due to underlying disease and adjustments to the basal insulin dose are not immediately clinically appropriate.
3. Will specify in each order the frequency of fingertsticks to be performed, type of insulin to be used for coverage, and units of insulin to be administered, and a range for each insulin dose.
4. Shall re-assess need for continued use of insulin sliding scale orders no less than monthly, and more frequently when necessary.

Consultant Pharmacist

1. Shall assess all orders for sliding scale insulin coverage at least monthly (more frequently when possible or requested), and advise prescribers if dose adjustments to basal insulin may be required or if sliding scale may be considered for possible discontinuation.

Nurse

1. Shall administer sliding scale insulin in accordance with written prescriber's order.
2. Shall advise practitioner of any critical value immediately.

End of Policy.