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POLICY MEMORANDUM 4702

Implementation Date: August 1, 2017
Review Date: August 1, 2019

REVIEWED/APPROVED BY:

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BYRN MUMMA, MD, MAS, EMS AGENCY MEDICAL DIRECTOR

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TED SELBY, EMS AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR

**SUBJECT: EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) INITIAL TRAINING
GUIDELINES: FINGER STICK BLOOD GLUCOSE TESTING**

AUTHORITY:

CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 22, DIVISION 9, CHAPTER 2, SECTION 100075, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017.

PURPOSE/POLICY:

To establish initial training guidelines for the use of finger stick blood glucose testing for EMT personnel.

I. INITIAL TRAINING GUIDELINES

A. Initial training in the use of finger stick blood glucose testing will result in the EMT being competent in the use of a glucometer and managing a patient with a diabetic emergency. The training will include the following topics and skills:

1. Blood glucose determination.
 - a. Assess blood glucose level;
 - b. Indications:
 - i. Decreased level of consciousness in the suspected diabetic;
 - ii. Decreased level of consciousness of unknown origin.
 - c. Procedure for use of a finger sick blood glucometer:
 - i. Medical asepsis;
 - ii. Refer to manufacturer's instructions for device being used.

- d. Disposal of contaminated items or sharps;
 - e. Limitations;
 - i. Lack of calibration.
 - 2. Interpretation of results;
 - 3. Patient assessment;
 - 4. Managing a patient before and after finger stick glucose testing.
- B. At the completion of this training, the EMT must complete a competency based written and skills examination to perform finger stick blood glucose testing which will include:
 - 1. Assessment of when to use and interpret the results of finger stick blood glucose testing;
 - 2. Managing a patient before and after use of finger stick blood glucose testing;
 - 3. Using universal precautions and body substance isolations procedures during finger stick blood glucose testing;
 - 4. Proper use and proper calibration of a finger stick blood glucometer;
 - 5. Demonstrating aseptic technique during finger stick blood glucose testing;
 - 6. Proper disposal of contaminated items and sharps;
- C. After completion of initial training, EMTs may use finger stick blood glucose testing as a part of the EMT basic scope of practice. Reference Solano County EMS Policy 6300.
- E. All EMTs must complete this training by July 1, 2019. After that date, EMTs will not be recertified without submitting proof of training to the EMS Agency. Reference EMS Policy 3200 EMT Certification and Recertification.