

## Long-Term Care Survey Alert

### Clip And Save: Follow These CDC Infection-Control Recommendations For Blood Glucose Monitoring

CDC directive focuses on diabetes care procedures and techniques.

- Prepare medications such as insulin in a centralized medication area; multiple dose insulin vials should be assigned to individual patients and labeled appropriately.
- Never reuse needles, syringes, or lancets.
- Restrict use of fingerstick capillary blood sampling devices to individual patients. Consider selecting single-use lancets that permanently retract upon puncture.
- Dispose of used fingerstick devices and lancets at the point of use in an approved sharps container.
- Environmental surfaces such as glucometers should be decontaminated regularly and anytime contamination with blood or body fluids occurs or is suspected.
- Glucometers should be assigned to individual patients. If a glucometer that has been used for one patient must be reused for another patient, the device must be cleaned and disinfected.
- Maintain supplies and equipment such as fingerstick devices and glucometers within individual patient rooms if possible.
- Any trays or carts used to deliver medications or supplies to individual patients should remain outside patient rooms. Do not carry supplies and medications in pockets.
- Because of possible inadvertent contamination, unused supplies and medications taken to a patient's bedside during fingerstick monitoring or insulin administration should not be used for another patient.

Source: CDC. Transmission of Hepatitis B Virus Among Persons Undergoing Blood Glucose Monitoring in Long-Term-Care Facilities -- Mississippi, North Carolina, and Los Angeles County, California, 2003-2004. MMWR 2005; 54(09):220-223.