Alameda County
Health Care for the Homeless
Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

ALAMEDA COUNTY HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS
1404 Franklin Street, Suite 200
Oakland, CA 94612
TEL (510) 891-8950
FAX (510) 832-2139
www.achch.org

STANDING ORDER FOR POINT OF CARE HgA1c TESTS

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the use of CLIA-Waived point of care testing devices to assist in screening for diabetes mellitus for patients served by ACHCH.

SCOPE/COVERAGE: The following types of health care personnel are authorized to execute this standing order: All employed or contracted Registered Nurses.

Background: Glycated Hemoglobin (HbA1C) measures glucose bonded to hemoglobin in red blood cells and is used to estimate glucose values over time. The HbAIC test does not require any prior preparation by the client (no fasting or medication abstinence) and is not impacted by caloric intake or the time of day.

The American Diabetes Association recommends testing for diabetes or prediabetes in adults with body mass index equal or greater than 25 or 23 in Asian Americans or those who have one or more risk factors for diabetes. Risk factors include having been diagnosed as prediabetic, being overweight, age 45 or older, have a primary family member with type 2 diabetes, sedentary lifestyle, history of gestational diabetes, and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. Certain racial and ethnic groups are also at increased risk of diabetes including African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, American Indians, or Alaskan Natives.

HbA1C levels and corresponding classification of diabetes is as follows:

Normal	A1C = or < 5.6%
Prediabetes or increased risk for diabetes	A1C 5.7 – 6.4%
Diabetes Mellitus	A1C > or = to 6.5%

The diagnosis of diabetes must be confirmed by repeat measurement, repeating the same or different test for confirmation.

Standing Order:

I. Perform point of care (POC) HgA1c test in all new patients without evidence of diabetes screening using HgA1c tests in the last year, and at least every 3-5 years for routine screening in established pts.

Procedures:

I. Clinical staff performs the POC test using appropriate materials (e.g. gloves, alcohol swabs, bandage, gauze or cotton balls) and aseptic technique following manufacturer's instructions.
II. If A1c Result is not determined or errors encountered, repeat POC test and ensure manufacturer recommendations are adhered to.

III. If A1c Result is <6.5%, no additional testing as this is a negative screening. Provide ongoing education to reduce the risk of developing diabetes. Document results in health record.

IV. If A1c Result is >6.5%, suggest presumptive positive. Order and perform a lab draw for confirmation of HgA1c testing and a comprehensive metabolic panel. Perform patient education on management of diabetes, symptoms, and its complications. Record results in patient record.

V. If confirmation testing is performed, develop a patient care plan to deliver confirmation results when available, and record confirmation test results in the patient record.

   A. If confirmation testing indicates A1c >5.7%, suggest recheck in 6 months and support linkage to provider.

   B. If confirmation testing indicates A1c >6.5%, recheck in 3-6 months and support pt with linkage to a provider.

Storage and Supply Maintenance:

I. Devices and related supplies are stored following manufacturer instructions. If stored under conditions that require modification of expiry, a beyond use date label is affixed to each individual device.

II. Inventory and supplies maintained by the Medical Assistant (see P&P Medication Prescribing, Dispensing, and Administration)

Waste:

I. All materials shall be appropriately discarded (see P&P Pharmaceutical and Other Medical Waste).

II. Used cartridges, test strips, and most other supplies can be discarded in trash. Lancets in sharps containers.

These orders shall remain in effect for all patients receiving medical care from Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless until rescinded.

DocuSigned by:
Clanon, Kathleen, HCSA
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Medical Director

7/25/2023
Date

Effective Date: July 2023
Next Review: January 2024
Approved By: Dr. Kathleen Clanon, Medical Director, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency