

# *Administrator Alert*

## *Policy updates and rule clarifications for Assisted Living, Residential Care and Nursing Facilities*

Office of Licensing and Quality of Care — Oregon Department of Human Services

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*January 23, 2008*

### *Glucometers and testing*

Seriously incorrect blood glucose readings can occur if a glucometer is not tested according to the manufacturer's directions. Staff may administer insulin and physicians may change insulin orders based on the readings. Glucometers must be accurate to ensure residents receive the proper amounts of insulin and oral diabetic medications. The facility must test glucometers to ensure accurate readings.

#### *Testing log*

Records must be kept of testing in a log which documents the following:

- Record the date
- Record the initials of staff testing the glucometer
- Record the range of acceptable readings for the high and/or low. Manufacturers vary in their requirements to use high, low (also referred as Level 1 and Level 2 solutions) or both glucose solutions when testing the glucometer.
- Record the value(s) obtained in the test
- Record retesting if needed as indicated by the manufacturer

#### *Testing frequency*

Glucometers must be tested as directed by the manufacturer. The facility must have a copy of the manufacturer's directions for each brand and model in use. For most glucometers, testing needs to occur when a new bottle of test strips is opened as well as other times (see operating manual).

## ***Administrator Alert - continued***

### ***Discard after expiration date***

Bottles of test strips and solutions have manufacturer's expiration dates and must be discarded when past the expiration date.

### ***Discard 60 — 90 days after open date***

In addition, test solutions and strips must be dated when opened. The manufacturer provides directions regarding how long they are reliable after being opened. They must be discarded according to those directions.

### ***Brand and/or model specific products***

Test solutions and test strips are valid only when used with a specific brand and sometimes a specific model of glucometer. Be sure the correct solutions and test strips are in use with each glucometer. At this time, there are no universal test solutions or strips.

There is at least one glucometer which requires no testing. Test strips for that glucometer are individually foil wrapped. For other glucometers, test strips are packaged in bottles containing 25 to 50 test strips.

### ***Reference***

OAR 411-054-0055 Tag 300



For more information, contact the DHS Office of Licensing and Quality of Care, 1-800-232-3020. Visit the DHS Web site at [www.oregon.gov/DHS/](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/)