

**Regional Diabetes Network**

## POC BG Testing-Multi-Patient Use of Glucometers: Reminder: for POC BG testing in clinical practice settings

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- **Ensure that all glucose meter(s) used in your clinic are designed to be used on multiple patients.**
  - **Ensure that staff using the glucose meter clean and disinfect it after each use according to the manufacturer's instructions.**
  - **Use disposable lancets only.**
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Using glucose meters designed for single-patient use on multiple patients has been identified by Public Health Ontario as one of the Top 5 practices that put patients at risk in a physician's office.<sup>1</sup>

In the Infection Prevention and Control for Clinical Office Practice (IPAC) document,<sup>4</sup> the Provincial Advisory Committee on Infectious Diseases (PIDAC) recommends that:

Whenever possible, blood monitoring devices such as glucose meters should not be shared. If they have to be shared, the device should be cleaned and disinfected after every use, according to the manufacturer's instructions.

**If the manufacturer does not specify how the device should be cleaned and disinfected between patients, or if the device is labelled for single patient use, then it must not be shared.**<sup>2</sup>

For more information about Infection Prevention & Control for Clinical Office Practice (IPAC):

- Visit OPH's **IPAC website for healthcare providers** <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/B/2013/bp-clinical-office-practice.pdf?la=en>

*The Waterloo Wellington Diabetes Regional Network is comprised of endocrinologists, diabetes educators, pharmacist, primary care and other community stakeholders.*

### References

1. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). **Top Five High Risk Practice Recommendations and Occupational Health and Safety Responsibilities**. Available at: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/BrowseByTopic/InfectiousDiseases/PIDAC/Pages/Infection-Prevention-and-Control-for-Clinical-Office-Practice-Top-5-Risks.aspx>
2. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario), Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee. **Infection Prevention and Control for Clinical Office Practice**. 1st Revision. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; April 2015. Available at: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/BrowseByTopic/InfectiousDiseases/PIDAC/Pages/Infection-Prevention-and-Control-for-Clinical-Office-Practice.aspx>