

PROTOCOL FOR: Glucose Screening During First Twelve Hours in Newborns at Risk for Hypoglycemia

DESIRED PATIENT

OUTCOMES: Blood glucose abnormalities will be identified.
Normoglycemia will be maintained.

AT RISK GROUPS:

1. Less than 36 weeks gestation.
2. Infants of diabetic mother (including gestational diabetes).
3. Birth weight less than 2.5 kg.
4. Birth weight greater than 4.0 kg.
5. Plethoric infants (unless polycythemia/hyperviscosity have been ruled out).

**CLINICAL
ASSESSMENT AND**

CARE:

1. Evaluate for and report signs and symptoms of hypoglycemia:
 - a. Jittery/tremulous
 - b. Apnea, irregular respirations, respiratory distress
 - c. Cyanosis
 - d. Temperature instability
 - e. Lethargy
 - f. Hypotonia
 - g. Poor suck/feeding
2. Unless otherwise ordered, in at-risk groups, glucose monitoring will be performed: at 30 minutes, 1, 2, 4, 8 and 12 hours of age, unless hypoglycemia occurs. With glucose instability, (failure to consistently maintain glucose meter reading at greater than 40) more frequent evaluation is needed.
 - a. *Report glucose meter reading of less than 40.*
 - b. *Report glucose meter reading of > 150.*
 - c. *Report glucose meter reading which has not consistently been greater than 40 for 6 to 12 hours after birth.*
 - d. *Report summary of glucose meter readings over the first 12 hours so that continued monitoring plan can be established if needed.*
3. Glucose monitoring should be done on any infant who exhibits signs of hypoglycemia.

**ACTION IN EVENT
OF HYPOGLYCEMIA:**

1. Repeat glucose meter reading.
2. Check blood sugar if repeat glucose meter reading is less than 40.
3. Give early feeding with sips of 5% Dextrose; then house formula.
 - a. Report poor feeding behavior in a hypoglycemia infant.

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4. Perform glucose monitoring at 30 minutes, 1 hour, and 2 hours after feeding.

ACTION IN EVENT OF HYPERGLYCEMIA: 1. Repeat glucose meter reading to verify.

APPROVALS: Nursing Standards Committee

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/90

REVISION DATES: 6/91, 9/92, 1/95, 2/97, 11/99, 3/02, 12/06

REVIEWED DATES: 12/08