**Point-of-Care Testing, Fingerstick Devices, and Cleaning and Disinfection**

**Date Implemented:**

**Review/Updated Date:**

**Policy**

Point-of-care testing is diagnostic testing that is performed at or near the site of resident care. This may be accomplished through use of portable, handheld instruments such as blood glucose meters or prothrombin time meters. This testing may involve obtaining a blood specimen from the resident using a fingerstick device such as a lancet.

Fingerstick devices are portable devices that a needle is contained in or placed in at the time of testing utilized to lance a part of a resident’s body (generally fingers) to obtain blood samples.

**[Enter Facility Name]** will follow CDC and the manufacturer’s recommendations for the use of point-of-care devices and fingerstick devices including recommendations for discarding, cleaning, and disinfection.

**Procedures**

**Point-of-Care Testing Devices:**

It is recommended to have a point-of-care testing device for each resident requiring a point-of-care testing procedure. If is not feasible to have individual point-of-care devices, **[Enter Facility Name]** will ensure that these devices are properly utilized, disinfected, and stored between resident use.

Testing:

* The staff member will gather equipment including the device, testing strip(s), alcohol prep pads, gauze pad, and the fingerstick device prior to entering the resident’s room.
* The staff member shall complete hand hygiene and don gloves.
* When performing a point-of-care testing device in a resident room or resident care area, it is vital to assure that appropriate barriers are utilized to place all equipment on. An appropriate barrier device can be any barrier that prevents equipment from directly touching the resident’s items such as a paper towel, Kleenex, disposable pads, etc.
* The staff will instruct the resident of the procedure and will select the appropriate area for a sample. Generally, point-of-care testing is completed utilizing a resident’s finger.
* Place a testing strip into the point-of-care machine and assure that there are not any error codes on the machine.
* Prior to starting the procedure, staff should assure that there is an appropriate method to discard used items or a separate barrier to place used items on. Used items should not be mixed with clean items during the procedure.
* Cleanse the location that will be used for the sample with an alcohol prep pad.
* Utilize the fingerstick device to lance the resident’s finger. Once the first drop of blood is expelled, the staff member should wipe the first drop off with a Kleenex or gauze pad.
* The staff member will gently squeeze the proximal finger to assist with an appropriate amount of blood for the sample collection. Once the appropriate amount of blood is available the staff member will collect the blood on the testing strip.
* The staff member will set the point-of-care device on the barrier and allow the device to test the sample. While this is occurring, the staff member should apply a gentle amount of pressure to the lanced site to assure the bleeding will stop.
* Once the point-of-care test is completed, the staff member will note the results, report to the resident the results and appropriately discard any materials that have blood on them or needles in the biohazard waste container.
* The staff member will doff gloves and complete hand hygiene.
* Upon removal of the point-of-care device from the resident care area, the staff will immediately disinfect the device (prior to setting on any other surface) or will place a barrier on any surface prior to setting the device down to avoid contaminating that surface.
* Staff should assure that the point-of-care device is disinfected prior to placing in storage or utilizing for another resident.

**Fingerstick Devices**

Fingerstick devices must be dedicated to an individual resident if they are reusable or single-use devices only. Reusable fingerstick devices should never be shared between multiple residents due to the risk of pathogens being in or on the barrel device where appropriate disinfection cannot be maintained. Reusable fingerstick devices should only be utilized when a resident is able to complete the entire lancing procedure independently. If a reusable fingerstick device is used, it should be labeled with the name of the resident to assure that it is only used for that resident.

For safety of staff and residents, it is recommended that fingerstick devices be auto-disabling. This prevents the fingerstick device from being utilized for more than one resident and prevents potential needle-stick injuries to the staff.

Upon completion of a point-of-care test fingerstick devices should be discarded in an appropriate biohazard container to prevent needlestick injuries to residents and staff.

**Cleaning and Disinfection**

Prior to cleaning and disinfection, staff should complete hand hygiene and don gloves.

Cleaning and disinfection of point-of-care devices must be completed per the manufacturer’s recommendations.

Cleaning and disinfection must occur following each use to prevent bloodborne pathogen transmission from resident to resident or from resident to staff.

As indicated in the fingerstick device section of this policy and procedure, cleaning and disinfection of fingerstick devices should not occur due to potential for bloodborne pathogen transmission.

**Resources**

CMS. (2017, Nov. 2). *State Operations Manual, Appendix PP – Guidance to Surveyors for Long Term Care Facilities, F880*. <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/GuidanceforLawsAndRegulations/Downloads/Appendix-PP-State-Operations-Manual.pdf>

CDC. (2020, June 10). *Infection Prevention Training | LTCF*. <https://www.cdc.gov/longtermcare/training.html>