NHS
Herefordshire
Clinical Commissioning Group

Blood glucose monitoring (BGM) and Quality Control requirements for primary care providers update

Practice meters

Blood glucose testing meters (BGM) should undergo regular Internal Quality Control (IQC) and External Quality Assessment (EQA) as per MHRA point of care BGM testing guidance.

See link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/403511/Point_of_care_testing_-_blood_glucose_meters.pdf

Internal Quality Control (IQC): Appropriate control material must be analysed according to manufacturer's recommendations. It can provide reassurance that the device is working correctly and assure the operator of the reliability of patient results.

External Quality Assessment (EQA): It is advisable that all sites performing blood glucose analysis also undertake the analysis of EQA samples. EQA is the analysis of samples with an undisclosed value from an external source. Participation in an EQA scheme will establish comparability between sites. IQC and EQA can be accessed via the manufacturer or a specialist company such as:

NEQAS (https://ukneqas.org.uk/) or
Weqas (http://www.weqas.com/).

CQC state- Regulation 15: Premises and equipment

Providers must make sure that they meet the requirements of relevant legislation so that premises and equipment are properly used and maintained.
https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/regulations-enforcement/regulation-15-premises-equipment

Quality Control procedures as recommended by the manufacturer should be followed and recorded:

a) Staff must be aware that it is a legal requirement that Quality Control results are recorded. This is essential if there is a product recall or adverse event.
b) Records should be kept for 10 years in line with Royal College of Pathologists guidelines www.rcpath.org
c) Document when machine first used. Record maintenance, battery changes.
d) Always have manufacturer's instructions to hand.
e) Always report any fault or malfunction of the blood glucose meter to the manufacturer.
f) Any adverse event can also be reported to the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). This can be done online: www.mhra.gov.uk

The use of monitoring equipment requires training and annual updates. It is recommended that any member of staff undertaking BGM must have completed training and been assessed by a designated registered practitioner.

For information only

Patient specific meters have their own internal control solution supplied by the manufacturer & related equipment. Regular internal quality control testing is required as recommended per manufacturer instructions and recorded.

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