

Blood Glucose Testing

CPT: 82947, 82948, 82962

Summary of CMS National Coverage Policies*

Coverage Indications, Limitations, and/or Medical Necessity

This policy is intended to apply to blood samples used to determine glucose levels. Blood glucose determination may be done using whole blood, serum or plasma. It may be sampled by capillary puncture, as in the fingerstick method, or by vein puncture or arterial sampling. The method for assay may be by color comparison of an indicator stick, by meter assay of whole blood or a filtrate of whole blood, using a device approved for home monitoring, or by using a laboratory assay system using serum or plasma. The convenience of the meter or stick color method allows a patient to have access to blood glucose values in less than a minute or so and has become a standard of care for control of blood glucose, even in the inpatient setting.

Indications

Blood glucose values are often necessary for the management of patients with diabetes mellitus, where hyperglycemia and hypoglycemia are often present. They are also critical in the determination of control of blood glucose levels in patient with impaired fasting glucose (FPG 110-125 mg/dL), patient with insulin resistance syndrome and/or carbohydrate intolerance (excessive rise in glucose following ingestion of glucose/glucose sources of food), in patient with a hypoglycemia disorder such as nesidioblastosis or insulinoma, and in patients with a catabolic or malnutrition state. In addition to conditions listed, glucose testing may be medically necessary in patients with tuberculosis, unexplained chronic or recurrent infections, alcoholism, coronary artery disease (especially in women), or unexplained skin conditions (i.e.: pruritis, skin infections, ulceration and gangrene without cause). Many medical conditions may be a consequence of a sustained elevated or depressed glucose level, including comas, seizures or epilepsy, confusion, abnormal hunger, abnormal weight loss or gain, and loss of sensation. Evaluation of glucose may be indicated in patients on medications known to affect carbohydrate metabolism.

Effective January 1, 2005, the Medicare law expanded coverage to diabetic screening services. Some forms of blood glucose testing covered under this NCD may be covered for screening purposes subject to specified frequencies. See 42 CFR410.18, sec. 90 ch.18 Claims Processing Manual for screening benefit description.

Limitations

Frequent home blood glucose testing by diabetic patients should be encouraged. In stable, non-hospitalized patients unable or unwilling to do home monitoring, it may necessary to measure quantitative blood glucose up to 4 times a year. Depending upon patient's age, type of diabetes, complications, degree of control, and other co-morbid conditions, more frequent testing than 4 times a year may be reasonable and necessary. In patients presenting nonspecific signs, symptoms, or diseases not normally associated with disturbances in glucose metabolism, a single blood glucose test may be medically necessary. Repeat testing may not be indicated unless abnormal results are found or there is a change in clinical condition. If repeat testing is performed, a diagnosis code (e.g., diabetes) should be reported to support medical necessity. However, repeat testing may be indicated where results are normal in patients with conditions of a continuing risk of glucose metabolism abnormality (e.g., monitoring glucocorticoid therapy).

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The ICD10 codes listed below are the top diagnosis codes currently utilized by ordering physicians for the limited coverage test highlighted above that are also listed as medically supportive under Medicare's limited coverage policy. If you are ordering this test for diagnostic reasons that are not covered under Medicare policy, an Advance Beneficiary Notice form is required.

*Please refer to the Limitations or Utilization Guidelines section on previous page(s).

CODE	DESCRIPTION
E11.22	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic chronic kidney disease
E11.65	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with hyperglycemia
E11.69	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with other specified complication
E11.9	Type 2 diabetes mellitus without complications
E78.00	Pure hypercholesterolemia, unspecified
E78.2	Mixed hyperlipidemia
E78.5	Hyperlipidemia, unspecified
I25.10	Atherosclerotic heart disease of native coronary artery without angina pectoris
N39.0	Urinary tract infection, site not specified
R53.83	Other fatigue
R73.01	Impaired fasting glucose
R73.03	Prediabetes
R73.09	Other abnormal glucose
R73.9	Hyperglycemia, unspecified
R79.89	Other specified abnormal findings of blood chemistry
R79.9	Abnormal finding of blood chemistry, unspecified
R80.9	Proteinuria, unspecified
Z13.1	Encounter for screening for diabetes mellitus
Z79.4	Long term (current) use of insulin
Z79.899	Other long term (current) drug therapy

To view the complete policy and the full list of codes, please refer to the CMS website [Home - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services | CMS](#)