1. Appropriate hand hygiene must be followed. See test procedure for details.

2. There is a Code Chip that comes with EVERY box of test strips. It tells the meter the lot number and expiration date of the strips, etc.

a. Every time a new box of strips is opened the Code Chip MUST be replaced in the analyzer.

b. To replace the chips the meter must be OFF

- Pull the old chip out from left hand side

- Insert new chip

c. The three digit number on the chip MUST match the three digits on the bottle of stips.

3. Internal Quality Control runs with every on every patient test.

a. If QC fails you will get an error and will need to start over with a new strip and another fingerstick.

4. Limitations of the test strip

a. Cannot be used for patient’s taking Hirudin or direct thrombin inhibitors

b. Patient’s hematocrit value must be between 25-55% for results to be accurate

c. Extremely high bilirubin (30 mg/dl)

d. Triglycerides of 500 mg/dl

e. Gross hemolysis

5. Test Procedure

a. Insert test strip

b. When the flashing blood drop appears perform a fingerstick on the patient

c. Do NOT waste the first drop of blood!!

d. Apply blood to the half circle area on the test strip until the meter beeps and an hour glass icon appears.

e. Allow the meter to run while lying on a flat surface.

f. Results will appear as an INR value

6. Results

a. An INR of >5.0 must be verified by a venipuncture and PT/INR by the main lab.

7. Maintenance

a. Clean the meter after each use with an alcohol swab.

- Do NOT use a Saniwipe!!!!

**Please review the lab procedures in the BDHS organization-wide Policies and Procedures manual. This manual may be found in SharePoint under the Policies and Procedures tab, Organization Wide Procedures, Laboratory. You will be asked to locate these procedures by an inspector.**

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