

Advanced Glucose Monitors in the Home Care Setting: Health Care Provider - Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between a Capillary Blood Glucose/Blood Glucose Monitoring level and Advanced Glucose Monitoring (AGM) glucose level?

- Capillary Blood Glucose/Blood Glucose Monitoring measures the glucose in the blood in the capillaries under the skin.
- AGM sensor measures the glucose within interstitial fluid (fluid under the skin).
- Glucose, other nutrients, and oxygen diffuse from the blood in the capillaries into the interstitial fluid; this process is influenced by the numerous factors that affect peripheral blood circulation such as blood pressure, heart rate, hydration status, fever, and vascular disease.
- AGM sensors measure glucose in interstitial fluid every 5 minutes. This monitoring frequency allows reporting of sensor glucose values plus trend arrows which indicate if glucose levels are steady → or increasing ↑ or decreasing ↓, with appropriate rate of change indicated by diagonal (↗ or ↘) and vertical (↑ or ↓) trend arrows.
- For example, with Capillary Blood Glucose / Blood Glucose Monitoring testing one obtains a single glucose value of 5.5 mmol/L while with the AGM, one may obtain a slightly different glucose value of 5.8 mmol/L, but by looking at trend arrows one will know if this is steady, falling or rising.
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- DEPENDS. The AGM sensor must be removed prior to radiographic procedures such as CT scan, MRI, and PET-CT scan. It may be left in place for x-rays and ultrasounds provided the imaged body part is not under or adjacent to the AGM sensor. The client or the caregiver are responsible for supplying replacement devices.

Can a blood pressure cuff be used on the same arm where AGM sensor is located?

- NO. Pressure on the sensor from a blood pressure cuff, or the client lying on the sensor, may result in false low glucose readings.

Can my client have a shower while wearing an AGM device?

- YES. The AGM sensor is waterproof.

What is the difference between an AGM sensor and AGM reader/scanner?

- The sensor measures the level of interstitial glucose and stores these readings in its computer chip. For the Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM), data is transmitted every 5 minutes via Bluetooth and displayed in real-time on the reader or smartphone. The Flash Glucose Monitor (FGM) provides data when the sensor is scanned intermittently.

What is the difference between an AGM and an insulin pump device?

- The AGM measures the glucose level in subcutaneous interstitial fluid. The insulin pump device delivers basal and bolus doses of insulin and works independent of an AGM (some pumps and AGM are linked, but not all).

What should staff do if a client refuses Capillary Blood Glucose/Blood Glucose Monitoring testing?

- Explain to the client why the AGM monitors are not approved for use when the client is experiencing HIGH or LOW reading and/or the client is experiencing symptoms of hypoglycemia or hyperglycemia. Document in the health record the discussion and the client response.
- If the client agrees to Capillary Blood Glucose/Blood Glucose Monitoring testing, the AGM device can remain in place for the client or caregiver to monitor glucose levels and trends that can be reported to the medical team.
- If the client continues to refuse, document in the client record and report to the HCCC. DSN escalates concerns and takes appropriate actions based on clinical judgement and regional policies.

Is a Most Responsible Provider order for use of the AGM device required?

- YES. The order is submitted to Home Care (HC) by the Most Responsible Provider.

Can staff continue to use the existing Insulin orders?

- YES. AGM readings would replace Capillary Blood Glucose/Blood Glucose Monitoring values provided the AGM is not displaying HIGH or LOW reading and the client is not experiencing signs of hypoglycemia or hyperglycemia.

What is the client responsibility for AGM sensors and readers?

- The client/family are responsible to provide the sensors, and the reader or smart phone for the specific AGM sensor and any replacement devices. Client/caregiver may contact the vendor specific Customer Support line should they have defective products. The Home Care program is not responsible for the replacement of defective or damaged items