



## Chairside Glucose Testing: What's in a Finger-Stick?

- Why should you perform chairside glucose testing?
- How do you implement glucose testing in the dental office?
- How can you be paid to perform glucose testing?

As dental providers we cannot ignore the overwhelming statistics on diabetes.

- More than 125 million people in the US have diabetes or prediabetes.
- Close to 10% of cases of diabetes are undiagnosed.
- Among people who know they have diabetes, about 9% are untreated.
- Of adults who are treated for diabetes, perhaps as many as 80% are poorly controlled.

Because oral problems are among the earliest signs of diabetes, the dental office often becomes patients' point-of-entry into the medical system. Dentists and dental hygienists are uniquely positioned to identify patients who have diabetes or prediabetes, monitor blood sugar and reinforce recommendations for diabetes self-care.

The American Dental Association recently approved CDT codes for in-office, point-of-care testing (POCT) for HbA1c, and capillary blood glucose. This has paved the way for dental providers to better co-manage patients who have diabetes or who are at risk for diabetes by utilizing finger-stick technologies and other screening methods. Many insurance companies are now paying claims for glucose testing in dental offices. Participants of this new course will walk out fully empowered to screen patients for diabetes and prediabetes, and implement chairside glucose testing.



**Suggested Audience:** Dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants

**Suggested Length:** 2-3 hours

**Optional:** An additional 1 hour hands-on training with glucose meters



### LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Explain the difference between and rationale for HbA1c testing (D0411) and capillary blood glucose testing (D0412), identifying patients who are candidates for these two chairside glucose tests
- Perform blood glucose testing utilizing finger-stick techniques, glucometers, and HbA1c analyzers
- Describe how the results of glucose testing may impact treatment decisions
- Identify the pros and cons, and barriers to implementation of glucose testing in the dental setting

Casey Hein, BSDH, RDH, MBA

www.caseyhein.com • casey@caseyhein.com • 240-707-6766

