

Blood - Fingertick Blood Sampling Devices

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Functional Sub group Clinical/ Patient Services - Infectious diseases

Summary Specifies actions required to minimise the risk of cross infection after each use of the fingertick blood sampling device.

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Applies to Area Health Services/Chief Executive Governed Statutory Health Corporation, Board Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Affiliated Health Organisations, Community Health Centres, Dental Schools and Clinics, Divisions of General Practice, Environmental Health Officers of Local Councils, NSW Ambulance Service, NSW Dept of Health, Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres, Public Health Units, Public Hospitals

Distributed to Public Health System, Community Health Centres, Dental Schools and Clinics, Divisions of General Practice, Environmental Health Officers of Local Councils, Health Associations Unions, Health Professional Associations and Related Organisations, NSW Ambulance Service, NSW Department of Health, Public Health Units, Public Hospitals, Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres, Private Nursing Homes, Tertiary Education Institutes

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Compliance with this policy directive is mandatory.

CIRCULAR

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Fingerstick Blood Sampling Devices

Please read in conjunction with *Circular 95/13 - Infection Control Policy*.

The following information should be brought to the attention of staff involved in the use of reusable fingerstick blood sampling devices that are used on more than one patient.

Reports of nosocomial hepatitis B virus infections associated with reusable fingerstick blood sampling devices,¹ used on more than one patient have been published. Such devices may include pen-like, spring-loaded and lancet devices. Investigations suggest that when a device is used on more than one patient, reuse of single use components of reusable fingerstick blood sampling devices may have contributed to transmission of the infections.

Fingerstick devices are widely used for capillary-blood sampling including patient glucose monitoring. These devices may be entirely single use or they may have both single use and reusable components. Some devices may include reusable components that can be used on more than one patient

To minimise the risk of cross infection the following precautions should be taken after each use of the fingerstick blood sampling device:

- manufacturer's instructions for the use of the device should be followed;
- reusable parts should be reprocessed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the Department's Infection Control Policy; and
- single use components shall not be reused.

Distributed in accordance with circular list(s):

A 90	B	C 100	D	E	
F 41	G 33	H 43	I 17	J 92	
K 8	L 24	M 10	N 52	P 14	Q

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References:

¹ Nosocomial hepatitis B virus infection association with reusable fingerstick blood sampling devices - Ohio and New York City, (1996). MMWR, 46 (10), 217-220.

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