
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT POLICIES

SUBJECT: CARE OF THE DIABETIC PATIENT

NO. 56

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Original date of issue: 11/96

Patient Population

Reviewed:	2/99	12/99	4/06				
Revised:	9/97	12/00	4/03				

Neonate	√
Pediatric	√
Adolescent	√
Adult	√
Geriatric	√

POLICY:

Patient presenting with symptoms of Diabetes Mellitus will be expeditiously and appropriately managed in the Emergency Department.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Patients with diabetes are susceptible to multiple metabolic and infectious complications. Signs of infection or metabolic disturbance should prompt triage immediately to the treatment area. Signs and symptoms include fever, confusion, and diaphoresis.

1. Patients with a history of diabetes or symptoms suggesting will have a fingerstick glucose performed by the ED primary nurse.
2. If the fingerstick is over 350, a urine sample should be acquired and dipped for ketones. If ketone positive, the MD should be notified.
3. Further studies and treatment depend on the MD evaluation.