

## **Measuring Hemoglobin with HemoCue**

### **A. PURPOSE OF PROCEDURE:**

The following is a standardized process to measure hemoglobin using HemoCue for the most safe and accurate results.

### **B. SCOPE OF THE PROCEDURE:**

The following provides the steps for a blood-draw using HemoCue.

### **C. GENERAL PROCEDURE:**

The specific steps below should be followed during every finger prick for hemoglobin screening using HemoCue.

<b>Step</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
1	Assemble equipment: Gather lancet, gauze, alcohol swab, bandage, and remove a cuvette from the vial; immediately replace cap tightly on vial.
2	Put on disposable gloves. Wear new gloves for each client.
3	Clean the puncture site by rubbing with 70% isopropanol. Allow to dry. Recommended puncture sites for infants are the lateral and medial portion of the plantar surface of the heel, although the ring or middle finger may be used. For children and women, use the ring or middle finger. (The finger used should not have a ring.)
4	Hold the applicant's hand or heel, and use a sterile lancet to puncture skin quickly and firmly, deep enough for blood to flow freely.
5	Wipe away the first three good-sized drops of blood with dry gauze. Do not "milk" the puncture site.
6	Introduce the cuvette tip into the middle of the fourth drop of blood. Fill the entire yellow area. Never top off a cuvette after filling it.
7	Cover skin prick with clean dry gauze and apply pressure.
8	Wipe off excess blood from both sides and back of the cuvette using the "butter knife" wipe technique but avoid touching the opened end (curved edge) of the cuvette to prevent drawing blood back out of the cuvette.
9	Look to see if there air bubbles in the cuvette. If yes, repeat steps 6-9 with new cuvette. If no, go to step 10.
10	Insert filled cuvette in the HemoCue holder and push in completely. Obtain results.
11	Discard the lancet and cuvette in a puncture-resistant container. Close the top if it is not self-closing.
12	Apply bandage. (Due to the risk of choking, it is not recommended to apply a bandage to a child less than 2 years old.)
13	Remove and discard gloves. Wash hands or use approved hand sanitizer.

14	Record results in the data system and explain the results.
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