



# STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.P.H.  
*Commissioner*

Dennis P. Whalen  
*Executive Deputy Commissioner*

August 7, 2002

Michael McEvoy  
EMS Coordinator  
Saratoga County  
33 Anchor Drive  
Waterford, NY 12188-1148

Dear Mr. McEvoy:

This is in response to your question regarding the use of glucometers by Basic Life Support (BLS) personnel in EMS services and your concern that some basic life support services have been issued CLIA registration numbers.

The Department has reviewed your questions and determined that, based on the training curriculum and the State Basic Life Support Protocols, the act of sticking the patient with a lancet, drawing blood and considering the blood sugar reading is not within the scope of practice of an EMT Basic.

The Bureau of Emergency Medical Services has been working closely with the Clinical Laboratory Evaluation Program so that CLIA registration numbers are issued to EMS services that are authorized by level of service, local protocol and the REMAC to perform blood glucose testing. If a Saratoga County BLS service has received a registration, please notify this office and we will advise the Clinical Laboratory Evaluation Program to withdraw their registration.

Please call me if you have any other questions.

Sincerely,

Edward G. Wronski  
Director  
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

cc: Marjorie Geiger  
Lee Burns  
Sue Zelezniak