

HSS STANDING ORDER

Routine Hemoglobin A1C (HgA1C) Testing for Adults with Type 2 Diabetes

PURPOSE

Over 29 million people in the US have type 2 diabetes.¹ Potential complications from the disease include heart disease, stroke, kidney failure, blindness, and loss of limbs. Prompt treatment of diabetes and management of disease symptoms may reduce the burden of diabetes and its complications.²

OBJECTIVE

To provide an approved standing order that allows Health Service Specialists (HSS) to perform routine Hemoglobin A1C (HgA1C) tests for adult patients with diagnosed type 2 diabetes, consistent with evidence-based guidelines found in the medical protocols.

FUNCTIONS

- 1) The HSS will confirm eligible patients and screen out those not eligible for HgA1C testing (see **LIMITATIONS** below)
- 2) The HSS will provide the following services: HgA1C test
- 3) The HSS will complete the finger stick OR collect and process the blood specimen as outlined in the HSS Manual and Health Center Laboratory Manual; and
- 4) The HSS will document all patient interactions in the medical record, including notation of the standing order.

TRAINING & EVALUATION

All new HSS complete four day new-hire training upon starting at . This training covers the content to be delivered by HSS. In addition to this training, HSS who provide primary care must complete a primary care skills training prior to providing primary care that includes training on the in-clinic, finger-stick HgA1C test. Documentation of these trainings and sign-offs is maintained in the individual's health center personnel file and human resources.

PROCEDURES

- 1) Identify patients with a current diagnosis of type 2 diabetes who are eligible for routine HgA1C testing:
 - a) Test every 3 months if last HgA1C $\geq 7\%$
 - b) Test every 6 months if last HgA1C $\leq 6.9\%$
- 2) Screen for limitations (see **LIMITATIONS** section below)
 - a) Note: the patient does not need to be fasting for HgA1C testing.
- 3) Complete the following:
 - a) Notify patient that HgA1C testing is recommended
 - b) Confirm insurance status/payment method to ensure that patient is not charged for the test unexpectedly
- 4) If the patient consents, order HgA1C as an in-clinic finger stick or as a lab draw.
- 5) For in-clinic tests or labs drawn on-site, ensure physician or clinician is on site.
- 6) For the in-clinic test:
 - a) Access the Office Services Template:
From the Standing Orders category, choose "HgA1C (clinic)."

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2014 National Diabetes Statistics Report. October 2014. <http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/data/statistics/2014statisticsreport.html> (accessed June 2016).

Select Diagnosis (ICD-10) code E11.9: "Type 2 diabetes mellitus without complications" and "Place Order."

- b) Perform the HgA1C finger stick in accordance with the protocol outlined in the Health Center Laboratory Manual.
- 7) For a lab draw:
 - a) Access the orders module:
Select Diagnosis (ICD-10) code E11.9: "Type 2 diabetes mellitus without complications"
From Standing Orders category, check "Hemoglobin A1C" and choose "Save and Send."
 - b) If completing on-site lab draw, confirm whether patient is due for any other labs under standing orders. Stage lab order during intake, but wait to draw lab until after the patient sees the provider to ensure that the provider has not ordered additional labs to be drawn. If patient is in clinic for a lab-only visit, check to make sure no other labs are due before drawing. Submit order, draw and package sample in accordance with HSS Manual and Health Center Laboratory Manual.
 - c) If labs are to be completed at outside lab, order through orders module as outlined above. Submit and print requisition, and direct patient to Quest location for lab draw.
- 8) Document the encounter and notation of the standing order in the patient's medical record.

LIMITATIONS

Any patient identified as **not** eligible for the standing order will be referred to a provider to determine if testing is indicated. The following criteria deem a patient ineligible for the standing order:

- 1.) Under age 18
- 2.) No current diagnosis of type 2 diabetes
- 3.) HgA1C $\geq 7\%$ completed in the past 3 months or HgA1C $\leq 6.9\%$ completed in the past 6 months

CONSULTATION

The HSS may use any of the following staff for consultation regarding any standing order:

- Clinician
- Quality Management Clinician (QMC)
- Licensed Staff Trainer
- Physician

SUPERVISION & ONGOING EVALUATION

The HSS' performance of HgA1C testing will be supervised by the QMC. An annual HSS quality review by the QMC will assess performance.

The HSS Standing Order for HgA1C testing will be reviewed annually in conjunction with revision/update of the Medical Protocols.

Associate Medical Director, Primary Care