THE APPLICATION OF GLUCOSE POINT OF CARE TESTING IN THREE METROPOLITAN HOSPITALS

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Introduction
The application of glucose point of care testing (PoCT) conducted in hospitals has been a contentious subject for many years. To determine if glucose PoCT systems consistently satisfy their clinical requirement, the entire testing process should operate within a quality management system. The aim of this study was to investigate how glucose PoCT was performed in three metropolitan hospitals.

Methods
A descriptive electronic survey (thirty-six questions) was constructed using Qualtrics Survey Software. The survey was distributed to three major teaching hospitals in metropolitan Melbourne in 2013.

Results
Seventy-three operators of glucose PoCT in hospitals completed the survey which showed:

- Quality control for meters is inconsistent, with 13% of respondents reporting that QC is done irregularly,
- 25% of respondents reported no specific training in glucose PoCT,
- 50% of respondents reported no specific on-going competency assessment for glucose PoCT,
- 84% of respondents enter results into paper records.

Conclusion
The survey obtained data not previously available. It has established that glucose PoCT, as conducted in the three hospitals surveyed, would benefit from a closer adherence to the quality framework already in place. In the future, the survey can be used to monitor improvement of the system and also be adapted for other PoCT analytes.