



*** PARAMEDIC ALERT ***

No. 2011-01

Date: January 18, 2011

Topic: Finger Stick Procedure Changes

Effective: Immediately (1/18/2011)

Attention: All El Dorado County EMS Providers

It has been determined that chlorahexadine may interfere with glucose readings when it is used to cleanse the finger stick site. Chlorahexadine does not affect blood obtained via IV catheters and will still be considered the standard for prepping IV start sites.

Please begin using alcohol preps for all finger stick procedures.

In addition, it is imperative that the site be allowed to **dry completely** before performing the finger stick.

Please contact the Emergency Medical Services Agency with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Brazzel", written in a cursive style.

David Brazzel, MD
Medical Director, El Dorado County EMS Agency