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| **HbA1c (Point of Care Testing)**  |

**Synonyms** Glycated Haemoglobin. Glycosylated haemoglobin.

**POCT Equipment** Siemens DCA Vantage.

**Clinical Indications** The Siemens DCA Vantage Analyser is a portable analyser for the quantitative measurement of haemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) in whole blood at the point of care.

 HbA1c is used for the monitoring of glycaemic control in known diabetics.

 During the life of the red cells (normally 120 days) haemoglobin undergoes a degree of non-enzymatic glycation; HbA1c levels therefore reflect glucose levels during this period.

**Sample Type** Capillary whole blood via finger stick or venepuncture.

**Sample container** Glass capillary (within a plastic capillary holder).

**Sample volume** Sample volume required for analysis is 1µL.

**Sample Handling** Capillary samples must be analysed within 5 minutes of collection.

**Special precautions** The person who collects the blood sample should be the person to analyse the sample.

 Acceptable anticoagulants are EDTA, heparin, fluoride/oxalate, and citrate.

**Turnaround time** Results are produced by the analyser 6 minutes after sample introduction.

**Measuring range** 4 mmol/mol – 130 mmol/mol.

**Limitations** Single use sampling.

 If the test result is questionable or if clinical signs and symptoms appear inconsistent with the test result, re-test with a fresh sample or send a sample to the laboratory.

 Most glycated haemoglobin variants (HbS1c, HbC1c, HbE1c) are measured in this assay. However, glycated haemoglobin F (HbF) is not measured by the DCA Vantage HbA1c assay.

**Training** The test should only be carried out by a trained member of staff. If you have not been trained, please see your ward-based link nurse, or contact the POCT team mse.POCT.btuh@nhs.net or mse.POCT.suhft@nhs.net