






















Meter	Accuracy (esp. ability to detect ↓BG)	Blood (μL) Required	Re-Apply Blood?	Comments / Extra Features	App Available	Cost /100 strip
All meters meet Health Canada, FDA, & International accuracy standards. ^{80,81}						
Medisure Empower 	✓ typically ± 0.6 mmol/L	0.5 μL	Cannot re-apply blood	• Illuminated. • Strip ejector. • Option for AST (forearm, upper arm, hand).	no app	\$89
Accu-Chek Guide 	✓✓ typically ± 0.3 mmol/L	0.6 μL	Cannot re-apply blood	• Strip ejector. • Option for AST (palm, forearm, upper arm).	mySugr	\$84
One Touch Ultra 2 	✓ typically ± 0.6 mmol/L	1.0 μL	Cannot re-apply blood	• Requires coding. • Option for AST (forearm or palm, but requires a special lancing device).	no app	\$85
One Touch Verio Flex 	✓✓ typically ± 0.3 mmol/L	0.4 μL	Cannot re-apply blood	• Colour bar classifies glucose level.	OneTouch Reveal	\$85
One Touch Verio Reflect 	✓ typically ± 0.6 mmol/L	0.4 μL	Cannot re-apply blood	• Colour bar / emoji classifies glucose level.	OneTouch Reveal	\$85
Contour Next 	✓✓ typically ± 0.3 mmol/L	0.6 μL	Can re-apply blood	• Option for AST (palm).	no app	\$84
Contour Next EZ 	✓✓ typically ± 0.3 mmol/L	0.6 μL	Can re-apply blood		no app	\$84
Contour Next One 	✓✓ typically ± 0.3 mmol/L	0.6 μL	Can re-apply blood	• Small size. • Option for AST (palm). uses colour light to classify glucose level	Contour Diabetes	\$84
Contour Next Gen 	✓✓ typically ± 0.3 mmol/L	0.6 μL	Can re-apply blood	• Option for AST (palm).	Contour Diabetes	\$84
Freestyle Lite 	✓ typically ± 0.6 mmol/L	0.3 μL	Can re-apply blood	• Option for AST (upper arm, forearm, hand, fingers, thigh, or calf).	no app	\$84
GE200 	✓✓ typically ± 0.3 mmol/L	0.75 μL	Cannot re-apply blood	• Option for AST (palm or forearm).	no app	\$65
Oracle EZ 	✓ typically ± 0.8 mmol/L	0.7 μL	Cannot re-apply blood	• Talking audio (French & English). • Option for AST (palm, forearm, upper arm, calf, or thigh).	no app	\$85
Spirit 	✓ typically ± 0.6 mmol/L	0.5 μL	Cannot re-apply blood	• Option for AST (palm or forearm).	no app	\$62

Meter	General Notes	Sensor	Alerts (app must be open to transmit)	Reader	Cost /30 days
Libre 2  intermittent scan; age ≥4yrs	Can falsely detect hypoglycemia. ⁸⁴ Readings lag behind capillary measurements by 5-15 mins. Apps available.	14 day duration; on back of arm; about toonie-sized.	✓ Range 20ft. To interpret alert, must scan sensor.	\$65 reader; can also use cellphone. Must scan q8hrs.	\$194
Libre 3  real-time; age ≥4yrs		14 day duration; on back of arm; about nickel-sized.	✓✓ Sends real-time info to phone; range 20 ft.	No reader; must be near cellphone at all times to transmit.	Not yet available in Canada
Dexcom G6  real-time; age ≥2yrs  G7-new '23 	 Falsely ↑ readings if on Vitamin C >500mg/d with Libre or if on hydroxyurea with Dexcom G6. ⁷⁹	10 day duration; on abdomen (≥2yrs) or back of arm (≥18yrs).	✓✓ Sends real-time info to phone/reader; range 20 ft.	Must be near reader (\$500) or cellphone q3hr.	\$350-G6 \$250-G7

Libre 1: a continuous system requiring intermittent scan q8hr; age ≥18yrs; 14 day duration sensor; NOT able to send alerts; same cost as Libre 2; reader available or can use cellphone to scan; finger poke required to make treatment decisions.

AST=alternate site testing. AST is available for many meters, but results lag behind capillary testing, and so AST is less useful if hypoglycemia concerns.

Capillary meter coverage in Saskatchewan: Typically available for free with purchase of 100 strips. Strips are covered by Sask Health at 200 strips per year; 400 per year if at high hypoglycemia risk; 3,650 per year if on insulin (800 strips per 100 days if NIHB).

Continuous meter coverage in Saskatchewan:  **Sask Health:** age 4-17yrs & diabetes managed with insulin.  **NIHB:** any patient on insulin.

✓✓ An Advantage ✓ Neutral ✗ ✗ A Disadvantage

Clinical Pearls

- There is no need to choose a meter with numerous features if the patient does not plan to use those features.
- If capillary testing >6 times per day, a continuous system can be more affordable than capillary testing.
- Testing has limited purpose if results are not used to adjust treatment.
- Continuous systems are preferred in **Type 1** diabetes (↑safety, ↓A1c).

Table 1. Who should test?^{1-5,7,75-79}







		No routine testing if targets met.
T2DM	Diet-controlled	May recommend testing if: • will result in a change in therapy (e.g. drugs, diet) • will ↑ adherence to therapy
	On meds other than insulin	• managing or preventing hypoglycemia (e.g. before driving or exercise) / in acute illness If testing, capillary meters (finger prick) usually ↓ cost.
	On insulin	May capillary test at least as often as taking insulin (for safety & to help dose). Continuous systems provide minimal extra A1c/hypoglycemia benefit. ⁴ Consider a continuous system if unable to capillary test, or if recurrent/severe/unaware of hypoglycemia. ^{NICE²²}
T1DM		Continuous systems preferred in T1DM on basal-bolus therapy. If capillary testing, target ≥ QID.
Diabetes in Pregnancy		Usually requires regular or continuous testing to guide management. See also page 57 . Adjust "time in range" for continuous systems (see online  Table 4).

Table 2. Which meter is best for my patient?

For many patients, any meter will do. However, each meter has its pros and cons; see our colour comparison chart (left). Some meters with unique or desirable features include:

Low tech & low cost GE200  ~25% lower cost than most other meters; strips very easy to insert.	Highest rated apps in the App Store Accu-Chek Guide  One Touch Verio Flex or Verio Reflect  mySugr OneTouch Reveal
Tiny blood sample Freestyle Lite  Useful if e.g. calluses make drawing blood difficult.	Visually impaired patient Oracle EZ  English & French talking feature.

Blood Glucose Meters

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A1c=glycosylated hemoglobin **BG**=blood glucose **CGM**=continuous glucose monitoring **d**=day **DI**=drug interaction **esp**=especially **FDA**=approved Food & Drug Admin **hr(s)**=hour(s)
min(s)=minute(s) **QID**=four times per day **T1DM**=type 1 diabetes mellitus **T2DM**=type 2 diabetes mellitus **yr(s)**=year(s)

Online Extras:

Table 3: Blood Glucose Meter Additional Pearls	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">When cleaning the skin prior to a capillary test, soap and water is adequate.If using continuous systems, occasional capillary testing may still be required – for example, if results are rapidly changing or do not match how the patient is feeling.Continuous systems are useful to detect nighttime hypoglycemia and/or the Somogyi effect (hypoglycemia at night leading to rebound high blood glucose levels in the morning).Continuous systems have value in the peri-operative and post-operative environment (e.g. when deciding when to restart held medications).Watch for 'alert fatigue' and 'monitoring anxiety' with continuous systems. In patients who have well managed diabetes, a continuous system can sometimes create unnecessary stress and a hyper-awareness of blood glucose values. Alert settings may also need to be changed (e.g. in older adults) to reflect new time-in-range goals.For patients on an insulin pump, continuous systems allow improved monitoring. Automated insulin delivery systems are also being studied which can communicate with continuous monitoring in order to automatically adjust insulin doses. For a review of these new technologies, see Marks et al.⁸⁵ For Sask Health insulin pump criteria (2021), see this link.Rarely, the sensor of a continuous system will detach. Typically contacting the company will result in them sending a new sensor to the patient under warranty.For patients concerned with privacy, the Dexcom G6 sensor can attach to the abdomen and feel more discreet than attaching to the back of the arm. Teaching video here.	

Table 4. Diabetes Monitoring Targets for Continuous Systems. ^{AACE 2021}			
	T1DM or T2DM	Older Adults / Frailty	T1DM in Pregnancy
Time in Range	>70% between 4-10 mmol/L	>50% between 4-10 mmol/L	>70% between 3.5-7.8 mmol/L
Time Below Range	<4% below 4 mmol/L <1% below 3 mmol/L	<1% below 4 mmol/L 0% below 3 mmol/L	<4% below 3.5 mmol/L <1% below 3 mmol/L
Time Above Range	<25% above 10 mmol/L <5% above 14 mmol/L	<10% above 14 mmol/L	<25% above 10 mmol/L

Table 5. How accurate are capillary blood glucose meters?													
Below is collected accuracy data for common capillary blood glucose meters. Data collected from manufacturer instruction manuals. All blood glucose meters on the Canadian market meet ISO 15 international standards. Results are for measurements below 5.5 mmol/L;* in general meters are more accurate when measuring higher blood glucose readings. For our colour comparison chart, we gave two checks for accuracy if a meter consistently (i.e. >80% of the time) measured results within ± 0.28 mmol/L. (Note: 0.28 mmol/L was rounded to 0.3 mmol/L, and 0.56 mmol/L was rounded to 0.6 mmol/L, for the colour comparison chart).													
	Accu-Chek	OneTouch			Contour				FreeStyle	General Electric	Oracle	Spirit	MediSure
	Guide	Ultra 2	Verio Flex	Verio Reflect	Next	Next Gen	Next EZ	Next One	Lite	GE200	Oracle	Spirit	Empower
Within +/- 0.28 mmol/L	94.1%	48.8%	82%	73.7%	92.8%	83.3%	91%	90.3%	70.1%	92.2%	-	55.4%	68.7%
Within +/- 0.56 mmol/L	100%	84.5%	98%	96.8%	99.4%	99%	100%	100%	95.5%	100%	-	88.2%	96.9%
Within +/- 0.83 mmol/L	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99.5%	100%	100%	98.9%	100%

*One Touch Ultra 2 was tested for accuracy below 4.2 mmol/L (rather than 5.5 mmol/L).

Search Terms

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