



# COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS FOR DIABETES ACTION

## POLICY

### Competencies for Screening

**Outcome:** Those carrying out screening have the necessary skills, experience and support to carry the procedure out safely and effectively.

**References:** NZSSD Recommendations for Community Blood Glucose Screening; Paton, C  
CODA Policies “Who to screen”, “Safety Precautions in Screening”,  
“Interpretation of Capillary Blood Glucose Values”, “Privacy”

#### **Recommendation:**

Safe and competent screening requires holistic assessment skills (cultural safety is absolutely inherent in this), safe technical skills, specialist knowledge to interpret results correctly, and recognition of correct pathways for referral following screening. In order to ensure this standard, the following selection process for allocating staffing resource for this activity is recommended.

The screener should:

1. Be able to perform an appropriate full health assessment within the limitations of the environment and requirements of the situation:
  - ❖ Know what a complete health assessment entails (including relevant history)
  - ❖ Know what parts of this full assessment are relevant to current purposes
  - ❖ Know what may be necessary at a further stage if not able to be done at the time of screening
  - ❖ Be skilled in interpersonal communication, particularly establishing rapport with a new client
  - ❖ Be able to demonstrate cultural safety in both content and management of communication
2. Be technically competent to perform interventions
  - ❖ Have had formal training in required tasks including but not limited to blood pressure recording, blood glucose monitoring, height/weight measurement, correct use of equipment in use, correct maintenance and testing of equipment used, record keeping
  - ❖ Have skills and experience in counselling.

3. Be able to use specialist knowledge for interpretation of results
  - ❖ Know the significance of the value of the blood glucose reading in relation to the type and timing of the test (see CODA Policy “Interpretation of Capillary Blood Glucose Values”)
  - ❖ Know the significance of the values recorded for Blood Pressure/height/weight/BMI values
  - ❖ Be able to explain to the client the underlying physiology behind results
4. Be able to choose best referral and follow up pathway for the individual client
  - ❖ Know what the referral pathway is for each screening scenario
  - ❖ Record all appropriate details for client to hold, pass to professional health provider concerned if relevant/consent obtained
  - ❖ Answer/advise/encourage client when and where to proceed further.