

## Purpose of this procedure:

This procedure must be followed by all NHS Lothian staff and healthcare professionals in training who use blood gas analysers.

Blood Gas Analysers have been implicated in the transmission of infections including blood borne viruses to patients receiving hospital care<sup>1</sup>

Blood Gas Analysers and surrounding surfaces must be clean and free from visible blood contamination. The equipment must be decontaminated after every use and if it becomes contaminated. This is in line with NHS Scotland and NHS Lothian policy.<sup>2</sup>

Blood Gas Analysers should be installed in a location which eliminates or minimises the risk of other equipment and surfaces becoming contaminated with blood.

## The Procedure:

1. Put on clean Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – plastic apron and nitrile gloves (eye protection may be worn if a risk of splashing is considered)
2. Clean touch screen with detergent wipe. **DO NOT** use chlorine on the touch screen
3. Dispose of detergent wipe into clinical (orange) waste bag
4. Moisten a ChlorClean wipe (impregnated to 10, 000ppm available chlorine) by briefly passing it under cold, running water
5. Use the damp ChlorClean wipe to decontaminate the external surface of the BGA – ensuring all visible contamination is removed. **DO NOT** clean the sampling port with ChlorClean or other chlorine containing products
6. Allow all surfaces to air dry
7. Dispose of used ChlorClean wipe into clinical (Orange) waste bag
8. Using a new ChlorClean wipe, decontaminate the surrounding surfaces (work top, cupboard/drawer fronts, floor) – ensuring all visible contamination is removed
9. Allow surfaces to air dry
10. Dispose of used ChlorClean wipe into clinical (Orange) waste bag
11. Remove PPE and dispose of into clinical (Orange) waste bag
12. Carry out hand hygiene
13. Ensure daily internal cleaning cycles run as a MINIMUM
14. Document all cleaning and maintenance in the ward/department cleaning log

## Associated materials/references:

<sup>1</sup>Health Protection Scotland (2015) SBAR: Decontamination of Blood Gas Analysers  
<http://www.nipcm.hps.scot.nhs.uk/documents/sbar-decontamination-of-blood-gas-analysers/>

<sup>2</sup>Health Protection Scotland (2018) Appendix 9 Management of blood and body fluid spillage  
<http://www.nipcm.hps.scot.nhs.uk/media/1412/nipcm-appendix9-20180712.pdf>