

CONNECTICUT WIC PROGRAM

Pronto Non-Invasive Hemoglobin Screening

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What type of screenings will the Pronto be used for at WIC?

Answer: Hemoglobin screenings only (not hematocrit)

2. Are the screening results from a Pronto accurate?

Answer: The screening results from a Pronto machine are comparable to the results from a Hemocue (finger stick) machine. The Pronto machine is FDA approved for use in medical settings.

3. How long does the screening take?

Answer: Generally 60 seconds, unless there is excessive movement.

4. How soon will I know the results?

Answer: The results are displayed on the LED screen immediately upon completion of the screening.

5. Does the screening hurt?

Answer: The screenings do not cause any pain or discomfort. The finger is placed in the sensor, which gently envelopes the finger.

6. How does the device work?

Answer: The Pronto uses multiple wavelengths of light to obtain oxygen saturation (SpO₂) and pulse rate (BPM) readings. It also accurately and non-invasively measures and displays total hemoglobin. The Pronto measures total hemoglobin using similar principles as pulse oximetry with additional wavelengths of light to obtain the measurements.

7. Are there any long term effects or risks from the screenings?

Answer: There are no known ill-effects as a result of the screenings. There are no known hazards to pregnant or breastfeeding women or their babies.

8. What hazardous waste is produced from Pronto screenings?

Answer: None. Requires no lab consumables or waste disposal.

9. How do we dispose of the sensor devices when all the tests are used up?

Answer: Currently there is no special disposal process for the Pronto sensors.

10. Why should WIC staff make initial attempts to obtain the bloodwork from the participant's doctor, when the Pronto device is available to use?

Answer: It is important that all WIC participants have a health care provider to provide preventative screenings, monitor their health, and take care of them when they are sick. If a participant does not bring in a hemoglobin test result because they do not have a health care provider, WIC staff are to refer the participant to a health care provider. This is one of the federally mandated functions of the WIC Program. Since hemoglobin tests are part of routine preventative screenings provided by the health care provider, participants may have already had the hemoglobin completed, it may not be necessary for these tests to be repeated at WIC. WIC staff should attempt to obtain results from tests already completed.

11. How will WIC staff respond to low hemoglobin readings on the Pronto device, as compared to low hemoglobin readings from a test done at a medical office or lab?

Answer: A screening result is not a diagnosis. It can be a flag for further testing. Counseling and education for low hemoglobin, although individualized for the particular needs of a participant, would generally address low iron in the diet. Whether the low hemoglobin result is from a Pronto screening or from a test done at a medical facility, WIC staff may address increasing iron-rich and vitamin C-rich foods. Regardless of the source of the low reading, WIC staff should refer the participant to their provider for follow up, or refer the participant to a provider if they don't have one. It is important for the participant to receive proper medical evaluation and follow up. WIC counseling and referrals should not differ based on whether the result are from the Pronto device or a finger stick.