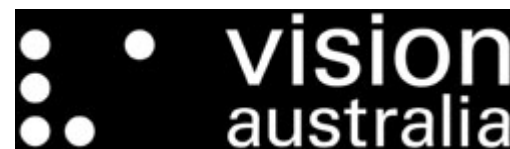


General Equipment Evaluation Form



Section 1: Product Details.

Product Name:	SenseCard Plus Talking Blood Glucose Meter					
Product Image:	A photograph showing the SenseCard Plus Talking Blood Glucose Meter, a small white and blue handheld device with a digital display showing "446". Next to it are a yellow and blue lancing device, a small white container of test strips, and a black carrying case.					
Brief product description.	Palm sized talking glucometer that enables a diabetic to test blood glucose levels if they are blind or vision impaired. Uses test strips that are available under subsidy scheme. Provides test results in seconds.					
Dimensions:	Width:	5.5 cm	Height:	9 cm	Depth:	1.5 cm
Weight:	96g					
Warranty information:	3 year warranty					
Price:	\$149 (price when evaluated, April 2004 - subject to change)					

<p>Supplier:</p>	<p>Point of Care Diagnostics Phone: 1800 640 075 www.pocd.com.au</p>
<p>Product benefits:</p>	<p>Very reasonably priced. Much cheaper than any other talking glucometer available on market. Very compact and portable. Comes with its own carry case, lancet, and set of test strips. Large print LCD display. Test strips are available under NDSS (National Diabetes Subsidy Scheme). Easy to access other features such as memory, calibration, setting time and date. Automatically switches on with test strip insertion. Automatic switch off to save battery life wastage. Voice prompts to step you through the measuring process. Blood can be applied to strips in a tactual fashion. Not a large amount of blood required to perform a test. Test result announced in less than 5 seconds which is very prompt. Approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration Good memory capacity that is accessible: 500 measurements Audible indication given when the unit manually (via strip removal) or automatically switches off. Instructions available in alternative formats: audio. Gives audible low battery warning.</p>
<p>Points to Consider:</p>	<p>While only a small amount of blood is needed to register a test result, the main challenge is lining where you have pricked your finger with the end of the test strip. This takes practice and people who are lining up their finger with the meter by touch alone are likely to have to extract more blood than someone using their eyes to make sure enough blood gets to the strip to perform a measurement. Only announces the result once so if you miss hearing this you have to access it via the memory. No audible indication of incorrectly inserting strip. The meter still switches on if the test strip is inserted incorrectly giving false impression that meter is ready to measure blood glucose levels. User MUST ensure that they have inserted the strip correctly.</p>

They can do this by running their nail along the side of the strip that has a slight ridge (the nail will stop at it). When ridge is identified, this faces upwards and this is the end that is inserted into the meter.

Switches off after two minutes which may not be enough time for some people to apply blood to strip.

A variety of error codes are displayed depending on the cause of the error, for example, not enough blood applied or used test strip inserted. The Sensocard Plus just says “error” and does not announce the number to help you determine the cause of the error.

Helpful Hints:

Do your testing at a table so the meter can sit on the table to help lining it up with your pricked finger

Prepare all of your testing equipment (strip, meter, lancet, tissues etc) before starting the test.

Have your lancet ready and loaded to prick your finger before inserting the strip.

Comparison with similar products currently available:

The only other available talking glucometer in Australia is a modified add-on to make a regular blood glucometer talk. This is much more expensive at around \$800 and is only available with certain models of meters.

Safety issues:

None identified.

Overall opinion of product:

With practice and perseverance this product enables people who are blind or have low vision to independently test their own blood glucose levels – a frequent requirement for effective diabetes management.