App for preventing preanalytical errors in blood gas testing, 9/13

Radiometer America offers its "Avoid Errors" application for the iPhone. The app allows users to identify typical preanalytical errors in blood gas testing.

The content of the "Avoid Errors" application is threefold, with tips on how to prevent errors, a troubleshooting section, and a skill test.

A handbook section in the app contains videos that show how to properly collect a blood gas sample by arterial puncture, through an arterial line, or by capillary sampling. The handbook also describes several types of errors that can occur during and after sampling and has tips on ways to prevent such preanalytical errors from occurring.

The app includes a troubleshooting section, which is useful for users who find exceptionally high or low values of a given parameter. Such unusually high or low values may be due to one or several types of preanalytical errors, and this section helps users address them.

If you would like to test your knowledge about how to prevent preanalytical errors, you can take a skill test in the application.

The recommendations that the app provides are based on literature and international best practices. The app is available on Apple's App Store.

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