

patient education program

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Glucagon

Glucagon is a hormone that is produced in the pancreas by the alpha cells. It acts as a messenger in the body to cause stored sugars to be released from the liver. It is available as a shot and an intranasal device.

When do I use glucagon? Give glucagon when your child is having a low blood sugar causing:

- Seizures (uncontrolled movements)
- Unconsciousness (your child is unable to wake up)
- Your child is unable to drink safely (could choke)
- **When in doubt give glucagon!**

How to use Glucagon or Glucagen (glucagon shot):

1. Check a blood sugar, if possible.
2. Remove cap from the bottle.
3. Uncover the needle and put through the rubber stopper of the bottle.
4. Push in fluid.
5. Gently swirl the bottle until powder completely dissolved.
6. Turn the bottle upside down. Draw out the amount the doctor has ordered:
 - 0.5 mg (or 0.5 mL) if less than 50 pounds
 - 1 mg (or 1 mL) if over 50 pounds
7. Inject the Glucagon into the outer-middle thigh or upper arm.
8. Roll your child to their side in case of vomiting.
9. If your child is not awake within 15 minutes, give a second dose using a new kit or call 911.

How to use Gvoke (glucagon pre-filled syringe/shot):

- Use the 0.5 mg device if less than 99 pounds
- Use 1 mg device if 99 pounds or over

Gvoke should not be used in children under the age of 2 years

1. Check a blood sugar, if possible.
2. Remove cap from the needle.
3. Pinch skin on stomach, outer thigh or upper arm and inject Gvoke (just as you would an insulin shot).
4. Roll your child to their side in case of vomiting.
5. If your child is not awake within 15 minutes, give a second dose using a new pre-filled syringe or call 911.

How to use Baqsimi (intranasal glucagon):

Baqsimi should not be used in children under the age of 4 years

1. Check a blood sugar, if possible
2. Remove the shrink wrap.
3. Open the tube and remove the device.
4. Hold device between fingers and thumb – do NOT push the plunger yet.
5. Insert tip gently into one nostril until fingers touch the outside of the nose.
6. Push plunger firmly all the way in. The green line should disappear.
7. Roll your child to their side in case of vomiting.
8. If your child is not awake within 15 minutes, give a second dose using a new device or call 911.

Treatment after glucagon given:

1. Your child should start to wake up and respond within 15 minutes.
If your child is not awake in 15 minutes, call 911!
2. As soon as your child is awake and can swallow, start giving sugared fluids.
3. Recheck the blood sugar – if less than 100, continue to give sugared fluids, similar to treating a low blood sugar.
4. Continue to check the blood sugar every 15 minutes until the blood sugar is over 100.
5. Once the blood sugar is over 100, give your child 15 grams of carbohydrate.
6. Continue to check the blood sugar every hour to make sure the blood sugar stays above 100.
7. Call the Diabetes Clinic (402-955-3871) after treatment and your child is awake and alert or with questions/concerns.

Helpful Tips:

- ALWAYS carry your child's form of glucagon with you/your child.
- DO NOT HESITATE to use glucagon. It is a safe medicine and may be life-saving.
- Keep the medication at room temperature (59-86 degrees F). DO NOT LEAVE IT IN THE CAR. (If Glucagon is mixed, it is stable in the refrigerator for up to 48 hours)
- Replace the medication if it is expired. However, if expired and you have no other option; still use it!
- Review the instructions each month.
- For the Glucagon and Gvoke shots, they can be given through clothing and the skin does not need to be cleaned prior.
- For Baqsimi, it will be absorbed even if your child is congested or unconscious. Discard the used device right after use. Do not remove the shrink wrap or open the tube until you are ready to use it.
- Contact the Diabetes Clinic (402-955-3871) if you have problems getting this medication from the pharmacy.