

STANDING ORDER

GLUCAGON EMERGENCY KIT (1 mg/1 unit)

Glucagon increases blood glucose concentration and is used in the treatment of hypoglycemia. Glucagon for injection is a polypeptide hormone identical to human glucagon that increases blood glucose and relaxes smooth muscle of the gastrointestinal tract. Because patients with Type I Diabetes may have less of an increase in blood glucose levels compared to stable Type II diabetics, supplementary carbohydrates should be given as soon as possible after patient awakes and is able to swallow.

Early symptoms of hypoglycemia include:

- Sweating
- Dizziness, lightheadedness
- Palpitations, tremor, restlessness
- Hunger
- Tingling in the hands, feet, lips, or tongue
- Inability to concentrate
- Drowsiness, blurred vision, slurred speech, abnormal behavior, personality changes
- Headache
- These may progress to : disorientation, unconsciousness, seizures and death

Instructions for use of injectable Glucagon:

1. Only give Glucagon if patient is unconscious, having seizures, and unable to swallow oral carbohydrate (sugar, or sugar sweetened products).
2. Remove tip off seal of bottle of Glucagon, wipe and with alcohol swab.
3. Remove needle protector from syringe; inject entire contents of the syringe into the bottle of glucagon, **DO NOT REMOVE THE PLASTIC CLIP FROM THE SYRINGE.** Remove syringe from the bottle.
4. Swirl bottle gently until glucagon dissolves completely. Solution must be clear and of a 'water-like' consistency.
5. Inject Glucagon: use the same technique as for injecting insulin. Cleanse injection site with alcohol before injecting medication. The plastic clip on the syringe prevents the rubber stopper from being pulled out of the syringe.
6. Turn patient on his or her side, feed patient as soon as he/she awakens and is able to swallow.
7. Allergic symptoms include rapid heart rate, nausea & vomiting.