

Hackensack University Medical Center  
The Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital  
The Molly Center for Children with Diabetes and Endocrine Disorders  
551-996-5329

## Using “Mini-Dose” Glucagon to Prevent or Treat Hypoglycemia

These guidelines are to be used as a temporary measure to prevent or treat hypoglycemia when a child with insulin-dependent diabetes is unable or refuses to eat or drink.

1. If your child is vomiting, regardless of what the blood glucose is, check blood or urine for ketones. Notify us immediately if the ketones are moderate or large.
2. If the child is unconscious or has a seizure, give the full dose of glucagon (\_\_\_ 0.5 mg or \_\_\_ 1 mg) into the muscle, and call 911 for emergency help.
3. If the child appears ill, dehydrated or lethargic, call us. He/she probably needs to be brought to the hospital regardless of what the blood glucose is.

If your child's blood glucose is less than 80 mg/dL and he/she refuses to eat or drink, follow these guidelines:

1. Mix glucagon according to manufacturer's instructions. Roll the bottle gently between your hands until the powder is dissolved completely. Do not shake.
2. Take an **insulin syringe** and draw up as many units of **glucagon** as the child's age (example: four (4) units for a four year old). Do not use less than two (2) units or more than 15 units.
3. Inject this just as you would inject insulin (subcutaneously).
4. Recheck the child's blood glucose in 30 minutes.
5. If the blood glucose is still less than 80 mg/dL, give a double dose (example: eight (8) units for a four year old child), but do not give more than 30 units. Retest the blood glucose in 30 minutes.
6. Once blood glucose has increased to more than 80 mg/dL, continue testing every two hours until your child starts eating **and** you are sure the blood glucose is stable.
7. Reconstituted glucagon can be kept refrigerated for 24 hours, and should be discarded after that.
8. Any time you need to use glucagon, please notify our office within 24 hours.

Hackensack University Medical Center is pleased to provide access to the resource material contained herein. **This material is provided for informational use only and is not intended to be medical advice.** It is important that you discuss any questions you may have with your physician or healthcare provider.

Created: 10/07  
Revised: 3/14