Diabetes Care Tasks at School:
What Key Personnel Need To Know

GLUCAGON ADMINISTRATION

Safe at School®

American Diabetes Association®

GOAL: OPTIMAL STUDENT HEALTH AND LEARNING

Timely glucagon administration, when indicated, is a vital piece of a comprehensive plan.

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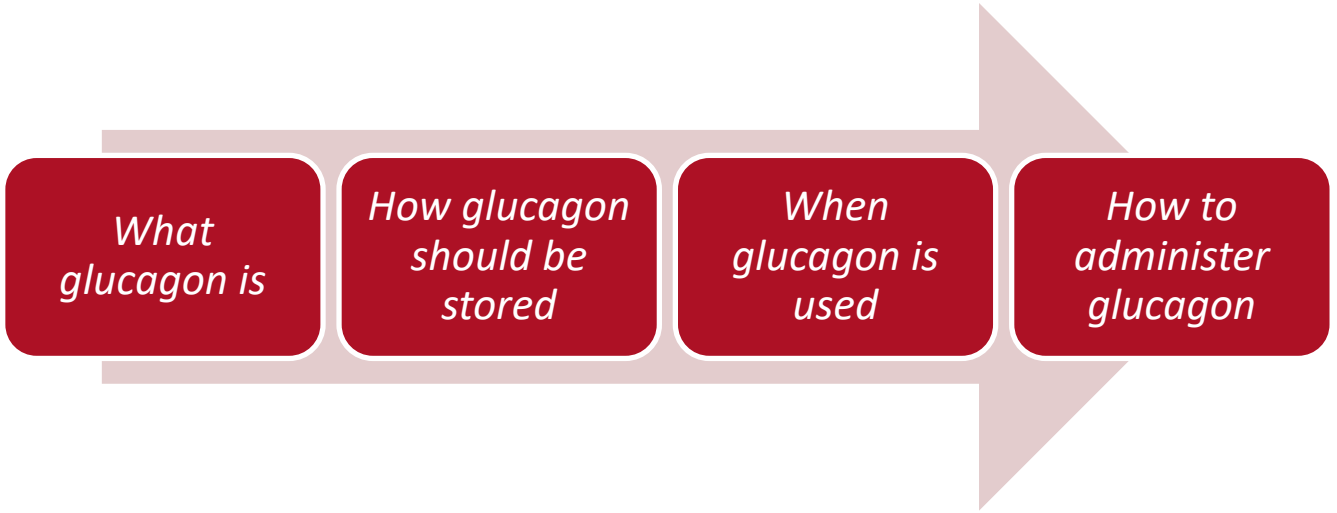
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Participants will be able to understand:



WHAT IS GLUCAGON?

Naturally occurring hormone made in the pancreas

Life-saving, hormone that raises blood glucose level by stimulating the liver to release stored glucose

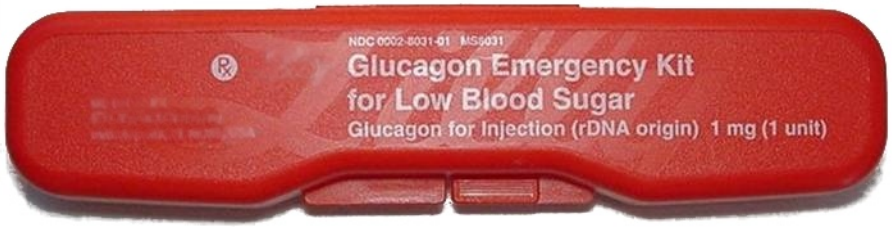
Injectable (Glucagon/GlucaGen)

Treatment for severe hypoglycemia

Life-saving, cannot harm a student – cannot overdose

STORAGE

- Maintain accessible to school personnel, as designated in DMMP
- Store at room temperature
- Monitor the expiration date
- After mixing, dispose of any unused portion within one hour



EMERGENCY KIT CONTENTS:

1 mg of freeze-dried glucagon (Vial)

1 ml of water for reconstitution (Syringe)

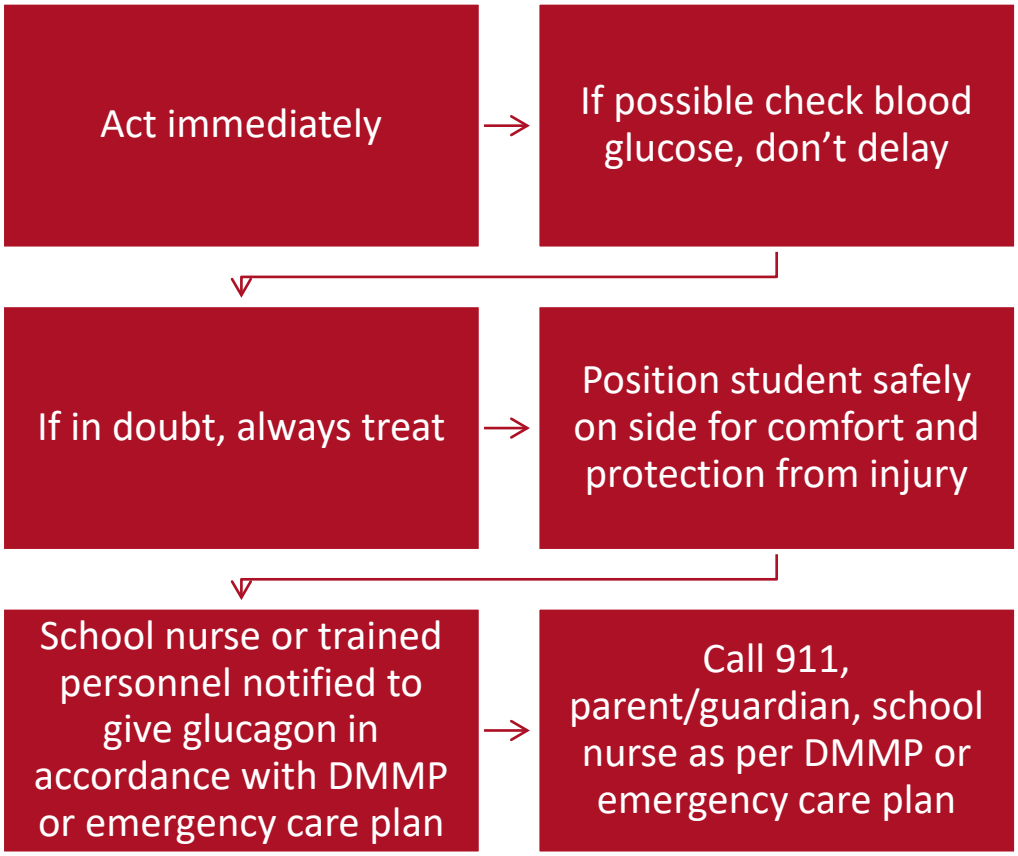
Combine immediately before use

WHEN TO GIVE GLUCAGON/GLUCAGEN

If authorized by the student's DMMP and if student exhibits:

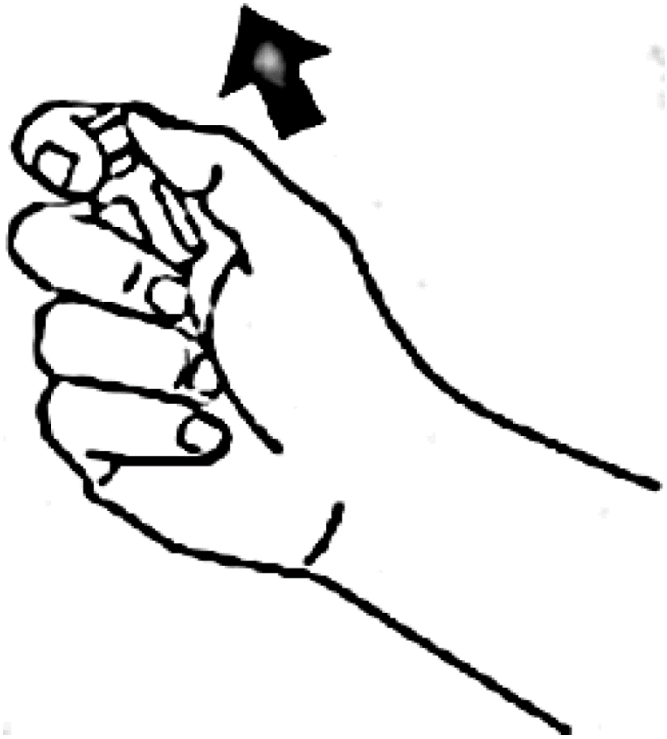
- *Unconsciousness, unresponsiveness*
- *Convulsions (seizures)*
- *Inability to safely eat or drink*

PROCEDURE


Act immediately
If possible check blood glucose, don't delay
If in doubt, always treat
Position student safely on side for comfort and protection from injury
School nurse or trained personnel notified to give glucagon in accordance with DMMP or emergency care plan
Call 911, parent/guardian, school nurse as per DMMP or emergency care plan

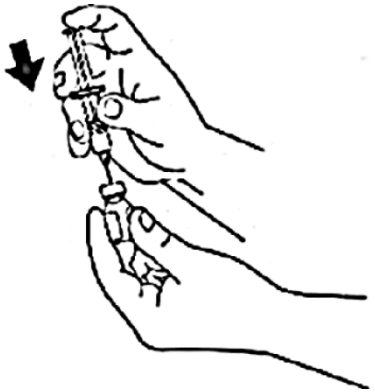
PREPARATION

1. Flip cap off glass vial containing dry powder
2. Remove cap from syringe
3. Put on gloves if available



MIXING SOLUTION

4. Inject entire fluid in syringe into the bottle containing powder

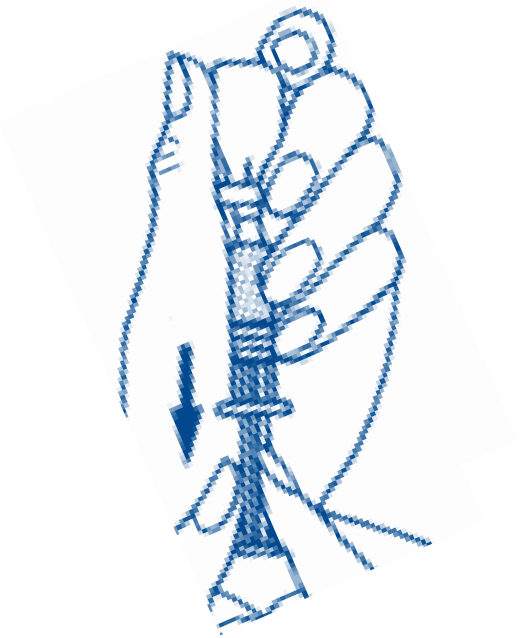


5. Shake gently or roll to mix until all powder is dissolved and solution is clear.

DOSING AND DRAWING OUT

6. Inspect. Solution should be clear and colorless.

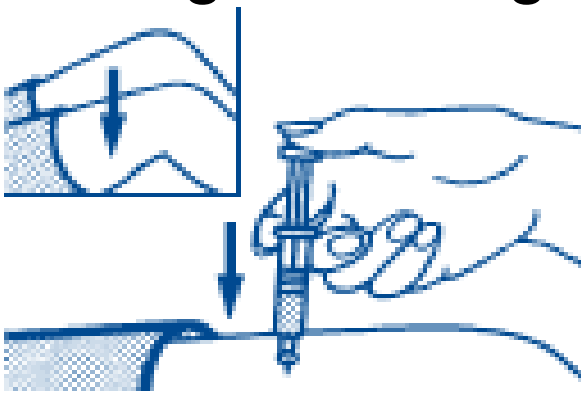
7. Draw prescribed amount of glucagon back into syringe.



INJECTING

8. Clean site if possible.

9. Inject at 90° into the tissue under cleansed area (may administer through clothing as necessary
   - buttocks
   - thigh
   - arm



AFTER INJECTING

10. May take 10-20 minutes for student to regain consciousness
11. Check blood glucose
12. Give sips of fruit juice or regular soda, once student is awake and able to drink
13. Advance diet as tolerated
14. Document as per DMMP
15. Do not recap syringe. Discard sharp in appropriate container

CONSIDERATIONS

- The time to complete recovery from a severe hypoglycemic episode varies according to how low the blood glucose level was and for how long prior to treatment
- Some signs and symptoms, such as headache, may persist for several hours, although the blood glucose level is satisfactory
- Continued monitoring is important
- Student may need to be transported via EMS or go home with parent/guardian

DON'T BE SURPRISED IF…

- Student does not remember being unconscious, incoherent or has a headache
- Blood glucose becomes very high (over 200)
- Nausea or vomiting may occur

Module 10 Pre – and Post – Tests:

GLUCAGON ADMINISTRATION

This tool may be freely duplicated and distributed for training purposes

1. **Glucagon is used to treat:**
   a. *Hyperglycemia*
   b. *Hypoglycemia*

2. **Glucagon is a naturally occurring hormone made by the pancreas.**
   a. *True*
   b. *False*

3. **Glucagon is given when:**
   a. *Unconsciousness/unresponsiveness*
   b. *Convulsion/seizure*
   c. *Inability to safety eat or drink*
   d. *All of the above*

4. **Which of the following sites is not usually used for glucagon injection:**
   4. *Stomach*
   5. *Arm*
   6. *Thigh*
   7. *Buttocks*

5. **The student should be positioned on his or her side before glucagon is administered:**
   a. *True*
   b. *False*

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

American Diabetes Association

1-800- DIABETES

www.diabetes.org/safeatschool