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

GLUCAGON ADMINISTRATION
Timely glucagon administration, when indicated, is a vital piece of a comprehensive plan.
Participants will be able to understand:

- What glucagon is
- How glucagon should be stored
- When glucagon is used
- How to administer glucagon
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/GLUCCAGEN

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.
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.
DONT’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 safely 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