

Glucagon

(GLOO – ka – gon)

What is glucagon?

- Glucagon is a hormone that quickly raises the blood glucose level in an emergency, such as a severe insulin reaction.
- Your child needs a shot of glucagon when he or she has low blood glucose and is unable to swallow safely or has passed out. Without glucagon, low blood glucose is dangerous and may cause a seizure or brain damage.
- **Glucagon is not sugar.** It works by making the body use glycogen, the sugar stored in the liver, for energy.

The Glucagon Emergency Kit

- Your doctor will give you a prescription for a glucagon emergency kit.
- Read the instructions. Learn how to prepare and give the glucagon, before you need to do this in an emergency.
- **Do not prepare the glucagon until an emergency happens.**
- Check the expiry date regularly. Replace the kit before it expires.

Parts of the kit



Glucagon powder in a bottle (vial)



A syringe with liquid to mix with the powder.

How to give glucagon in an emergency

1. Turn your child on his/her side

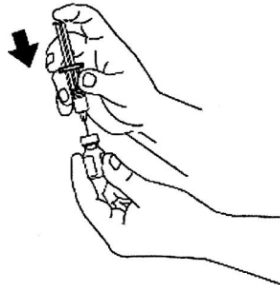
2. Check your child's blood sugar

- If your child has low blood glucose and is unable to swallow safely or has passed out, give glucagon.

3. Prepare the glucagon



Remove the “flip-off” seal from the vial of glucagon.

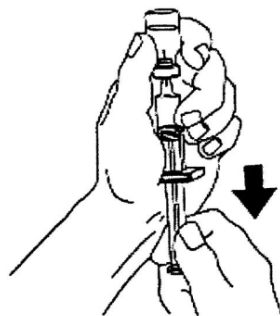


Remove the cap from the needle.

Insert the needle into the vial. Inject all the liquid from the syringe into the vial. Remove the needle.



Swirl the vial gently until the powder is fully dissolved and the liquid becomes clear.



Turn the vial upside down. Insert the same needle into the vial. Draw up all of the liquid from the vial into the syringe.

4. Give the glucagon

- Choose the injection site (buttocks, upper and outer thigh or the fatty part of the back of the upper arm).
- Pinch up the skin and inject the needle straight in at 90° (the same way as giving insulin).
- Push the plunger in to give the glucagon.
 - If your child **weighs less than 20 kg (44 lbs)**, give ½ of the glucagon (0.5 ml = 500 mcg). If you give more than ½, there is no danger from overdose.
 - If your child **weighs more than 20 kg (44 lbs)**, inject **all** of the glucagon (1 ml = 1000 mcg).
- Remove the needle from the skin.

5. Get medical help

**Call 911 and stay with your child.
Keep your child on his/her side.**

6. Continue to check your child

- Check your child's blood glucose level every 15 minutes until it is in the normal range.
- If your child wakes up and is able to swallow, give a fast-acting carbohydrate (such as regular pop or juice) and a long-acting carbohydrate (such as toast or crackers, a protein may be added).
- Be aware that glucagon may make your child feel sick or throw up (vomit).
- Safely dispose of the needle and any remaining glucagon. Replace the glucagon emergency kit as soon as possible.

