

Mini-Dose Glucagon

Mini-dose glucagon is a way of giving glucagon in small doses to help keep up the blood sugar when someone is unable to take liquids or food by mouth. Low blood sugar is always a risk with diabetes, and it can be even more of a problem during sick days.

In the past, if someone had a low blood sugar, <80, and couldn't take anything by mouth (because they were nauseous or vomiting or refusing to eat), a trip to the emergency room was often necessary to get sugar through an IV. With mini-dose glucagon, you may be able to avoid this by following the directions below.

Use this procedure if your child's blood sugar is low, <80, and they are not able to take anything by mouth. Do NOT use this procedure if seizures or loss of consciousness is present since those situations require full-dose glucagon.

1. Reconstitute the glucagon according to the directions by injecting the liquid diluent into the vial containing the powder.
2. With an INSULIN syringe, draw up the recommended dose based on your child's age:
 - 2 years and younger: 2 units
 - 3 years – 15 years: 1 unit per year of age
 - Over 15 years: 15 units
3. Inject the mini-dose glucagon exactly as you would insulin (subcutaneously).
4. Check the blood sugar every 30 minutes.
5. If the blood sugar is not above 80 mg/dl within 30 minutes, give the mini-dose glucagon using DOUBLE the initial dose.
6. The effective dose can be repeated hourly if needed.
7. Give the standard FULL dose of glucagon if your child has
 - loss of consciousness
 - seizure
8. Call the endocrinologist on-call or go to the nearest emergency room if you cannot keep the blood sugar above 70 mg/dl with food, liquids, or mini-dose glucagon.
9. Reconstituted glucagon can be kept for 24 hours in the refrigerator.
10. Make sure you order more glucagon so you always have it available for emergencies.