

# Low-Dose Glucagon

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A glucagon emergency kit (or two) should be a part of every family's Type 1 Diabetes kit. Glucagon is a hormone that triggers the release of sugar from inside the body's liver and muscle to counteract a low blood sugar event. In most cases it is used to treat only severe low blood sugar under 20 mg/dL or when someone who is hypoglycemic is unresponsive.

However, there is another use that all families should know. A "low-dose" of glucagon can be used to treat a mild low blood sugar in a child who is unwilling to eat or drink due to nausea from a stomach bug or a youngster who refuses to eat or drink. The low-dose protocol uses a much smaller dosage than what is used to treat a severe low blood sugar.

## What you will need

- **Glucagon Emergency Kit**
- **U-100 Insulin Syringe**

## How to Prepare Low-Dose Glucagon

- 1) Prepare the Glucagon as instructed per kit instructions.
- 2) **Insert your insulin syringe** into the prepared Glucagon vial (not the syringe it comes with).
- 3) **Draw up 1 unit per year of age to a maximum of 15 units**  
Example: 2 year old = 2 units of low dose glucagon
- 4) Administer low-dose glucagon in same areas you administer insulin.
- 5) You may repeat low-dose glucagon every 20-30 minutes if needed.

## Remember

- Once Glucagon is mixed it is good for 24 hours.
- Do not use low-dose glucagon if your child has passed out. Instead give your child their full dose of glucagon as prescribed and call 911.
- Check your glucagon expiration date regularly. Contact your pharmacy for refills as needed.
- If you have given your child too much rapid-acting insulin by mistake. Calculate the carbohydrates needed to cover the insulin given. Monitor your child's blood sugar closely as needed. If needed, please call the Pediatric Endocrinology Clinic.

**Please contact the Pediatric Endocrinology Clinic for any questions  
(509) 474-2880**