

Using a Glucagon Emergency Kit with a Conscious Child

Mini-dose glucagon rescue

Glucagon emergency kits are low doses of glucagon used to raise blood glucose quickly when your child does not feel good and they are conscious. If your child is vomiting, refuses to eat or is unable to have food or liquids that contain sugar, blood glucose can drop quickly. Low doses of glucagon can be used to raise the blood glucose before it becomes too low.



Warning! Mini-dose glucagon rescue should not be given if moderate to large ketones are present.

Kit Contents The 1-mg glucagon emergency kit comes with a bottle containing a white powdered tablet (medicine) and a syringe containing liquid saline. Inject the syringe containing the liquid into the bottle with the powder. Push **all** of the contents of the syringe into the bottle, and then gently swirl it to form a clear liquid.

Dose Give the following doses of liquid glucagon with an insulin syringe. You draw up the glucagon just like you do with insulin:

Age in years	Dose in units
2 years old and under	2 units
3 years old	3 units
4 years old to 15 years old	Give units equal to age of child (E.g. age 7, give 7 units)
16 years and up	15 units – Maximum dose 15 units.

If within 20 to 30 minutes the blood glucose does not go up on your glucometer 60 mg/dl to 90 mg/dl from the first reading, double the glucagon dose and give it again. These doses may be given every 1 to 2 hours as needed. Store mixed glucagon in the refrigerator, and use it within 24 hours, if needed. Throw away any unused mixed glucagon after 24 hours.

Things to remember about mini-dose glucagon

Glucagon, a hormone our bodies make, raises the blood sugar by stimulating the release of glycogen stores from the liver and muscles. If blood sugar has been low over a long period of time, glucagon may not work. If, after two doses, the blood sugar does not rise and your child cannot keep anything down, call your provider. A trip to the emergency room may be in order. Glucagon raises the blood sugar quickly, but it does not keep it up for very long. Food, in the form of carbohydrates and protein, is needed to keep blood sugar up in the long run. Do **not** use mini-dose glucagon if your child is unconscious. Instead, give the glucagon dose prescribed by your healthcare provider and call 911.

To Learn More

- Endocrinology
206-987-2640
- Ask your child's healthcare provider
- seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line, 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.



Seattle Children's offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201. This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children's. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's healthcare provider.

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