



Mini-dose Glucagon Rescue

Using a glucagon emergency kit

Glucagon emergency kits are low doses of glucagon used to raise blood sugar quickly when your child is sick.

When children are sick with vomiting and are unable to keep down food or liquids that contain sugar, blood sugars can drop quickly. Low doses of glucagon can be used to raise the blood sugar before they become too low.

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

The 1-mg glucagon emergency kit comes with a bottle containing a tablet and a syringe containing diluting liquid. Inject the syringe containing the liquid into the bottle with the tablet. Push ALL of the contents of the syringe into the bottle, and then gently swirl it to form a clear liquid. Give the following dose, just like you would insulin, using your insulin syringe:

- If your child is 2 years old or under, give two units.
- Give one additional unit for each year of age for children over age 2. For example: At age 2, give two units; at age 3, give three units; at age 4, give four units; and so on, up to age 15. Children ages 15 or older should receive no more than 15 units.

At these small doses, you can expect the blood sugar to rise about 60 to 90 mg/dl and to last about one hour. If the blood glucose does not rise enough within 20 to 30 minutes, double the glucagon dose and give it again. These doses may be given every one to two 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 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, 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
- Your child's healthcare provider
- www.seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your child's 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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