

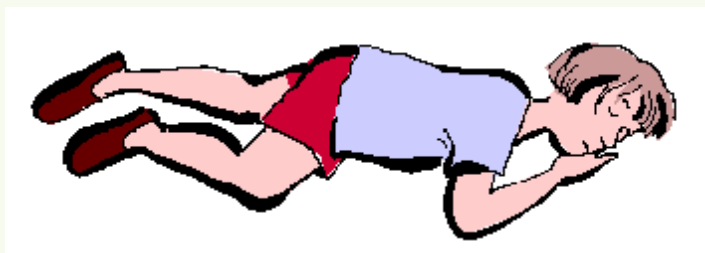
# Glucagon Administration

## What is Glucagon?

- **Glucagon** is an intramuscular injection which is given if the child/adolescent is hypoglycaemic and too drowsy or uncooperative to take anything by mouth, is unconscious (cannot be woken up) or is having a seizure (fitting).
- **Glucagon** raises the BGL by making the liver release its stores of glucose into the bloodstream.

**DO NOT attempt to give anything by mouth to a drowsy, unconscious, or fitting child/young person as they may choke.**

1. Call Ambulance 000 tell the operator it is a "Diabetes Emergency"
2. If possible, check blood glucose level first.
3. Place the child/young person on their side in the recovery position to prevent anything from being breathed into the lungs - **Follow First Aid principles DRABCD then follow the steps for administering a Glucagon injection.**



## Administering a Glucagon Injection

**Please note** \*If your child's weight is **less than 25kg**, please give 0.5ml of glucagon.

4. Remove the orange plastic cap from the bottle of white powder, the needle cap from the syringe along with the plastic guard.
5. Inject all of the water into the bottle containing glucagon
6. Without withdrawing the needle, swirl bottle until all the powder dissolves
7. Draw up the solution into the syringe
8. Inject all the glucagon- preferred sites are the thigh, upper arm, buttocks as the absorption rate may be quicker in these sites.

## Information for patients, families and carers

### Additional Information

- Do not expect an immediate improvement Glucagon will take less than 10 minutes to work. Keep your child in the recovery position and continue monitor.
- Check BGLs every 15 minutes for the first hour then every hour until blood sugar level is stable. (This means for 4 to 8 hours after a severe “Hypo”)
- As soon as your child/adolescent wakes a little, encourage them to sip on sugary fluids, such as lemonade, sweetened condensed milk, honey, juice or any sugar containing fluid
- It is important to give a sustaining carbohydrate **30 to 60 minutes after Glucagon**.
- Your child/adolescent might VOMIT soon after you have given glucagon. This often happens after giving glucagon **DO NOT BE WORRIED**. They might also complain of a headache after having glucagon. This should only last for couple of hours. If you are concerned about the vomiting or headache please present to the Emergency Department of Monash Children’s Hospital.
- BGLs are often elevated following a severe hypo. This is called a ‘rebound high’ and can be a normal response after using Glucagon. Any high blood glucose levels after a hypo requiring glucagon **should not be treated with extra insulin**.

### If you have administered GLUCAGON you should:

- Call the Diabetes Nurse Educator to discuss further management over next 24 hours or present to the Emergency Department of Monash Children’s Hospital.
- It is important to get another prescription filled for Glucagon after using it as you never know when it might be needed again.
- Glucagon has an “expiry date” (usually 1 year). If you have not used Glucagon by the expiry, discard the injection and obtain a new prescription.
- Glucagon must be stored at room temperature.