

Patient Education: Your Glucagon Emergency Kit



Glucagon is an emergency medicine that will raise your blood sugar if you are unable to eat or drink. It is an important part of being

prepared if you have diabetes and take insulin or a medication that can cause hypoglycemia (low blood sugar). It is given by injection, under the skin.

If you are someone who is at risk for hypoglycemia, you should have a current (non-expired) glucagon emergency kit on hand AND someone who knows where it is kept and how to use it. If you need it, you won't be able to give it to yourself.

When is the Glucagon Emergency Kit used?

Glucagon should be used to treat hypoglycemia if you are unconscious, unresponsive (meaning you cannot follow commands, even if you appear to be awake) or cannot swallow or keep any food/liquids down.



What is in the Glucagon Emergency Kit?

Your glucagon kit contains picture instructions on how to use it, a syringe containing clear liquid and a small vial of powder. Check the

date on the kit periodically to make sure your kit has not expired.



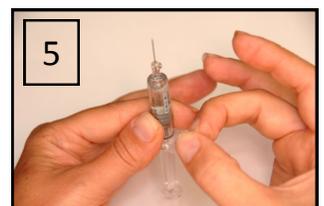
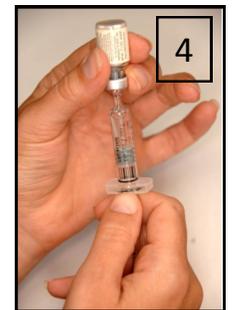
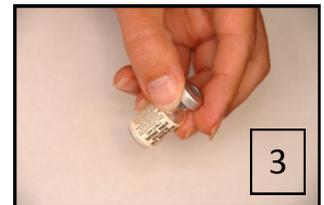
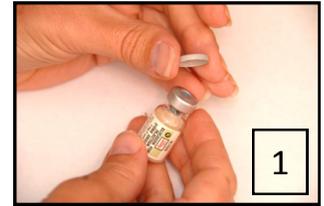
Is glucagon dangerous?

Glucagon is a safe drug. In fact, everyone's body contains natural glucagon to help keep blood sugar level. You need a prescription to obtain glucagon, because it is an injectable emergency medication. There is no danger of overdose. However, it is for emergencies and should be used for such.

How is the Glucagon Emergency Kit used?

Do not prepare glucagon until it is actually needed.

1. Remove the flip off seal from the bottle of glucagon.
2. Remove the needle protector from the syringe of clear fluid and inject the entire contents of the syringe into the small vial of powder.
3. Remove the syringe from the vial and swirl until the solution is clear (like water).
4. Reinsert the syringe needle into the vial of solution and withdraw the entire contents into the syringe (for children weighing less than 45 lbs., withdraw only half the solution).
5. With needle facing straight up, tap the syringe and expel any air.
6. Insert the needle into any spot of fatty tissue (abdomen, buttocks, back of arm or thigh). Inject all of the solution that is in the syringe.
7. Turn the person onto his or her side in case of vomiting.



How will a person respond after being given glucagon?

In about 5 to 15 minutes, the person should respond and begin to come out of hypoglycemia. Sometimes a person may experience nausea or may vomit after responding to glucagon. Although initially the blood sugar may spike to a high level, it is important that the patient eat some food containing carbohydrate as soon as he or she is able.

What else do I need to know?

If the person does not respond within 15 minutes, call 911 immediately. It is possible that the person may be in a coma from severe hyperglycemia (very high blood sugar), rather than hypoglycemia, in which case, glucagon will not help.

Notify your doctor whenever you experience a low blood sugar that requires glucagon.

Get your prescription refilled immediately.