

How to Give Glucagon

Glucagon is a medication used to treat low blood sugar. In this handout, you will learn how to give your child glucagon.

WHAT IS GLUCAGON?

Glucagon is a medication used to treat hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) in children who have diabetes. Glucagon is given through an injection.

WHEN SHOULD I GIVE GLUCAGON?

- If your child has low blood sugar AND takes insulin to manage his diabetes
- If your child cannot eat food by mouth
- If your child is having a seizure

WHICH SUPPLIES WILL I NEED?

- The glucagon kit
- A sharps container, if possible
- Soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, if possible

If there is an emergency, it is okay if you do not have a sharps container, soap and water or hand sanitizer. Your child's health and safety is most important.

If there is an emergency, you might not have time to clean your child's skin before giving the glucagon. This is okay. Use an alcohol wipe to clean the top of the glucagon bottle before giving the glucagon.

In case of an emergency, you can give glucagon through your child's clothing.

HOW DO I GIVE GLUCAGON?

1. Open the glucagon kit. Use the alcohol wipe to clean the top of the glucagon bottle. You will see the glucagon powder in the bottle.
2. Take the cap off the syringe (needle). You will see a clear liquid inside the syringe.
3. Insert the needle into the glucagon bottle. Press down on the plunger to inject the liquid into the bottle. Leave the needle in the bottle.
4. Turn the bottle upright. Carefully roll the bottle between your hands to mix the liquid and the powder. The mixture will be clear and watery when it is properly mixed.
5. Remove the needle from the bottle. Inject the glucagon into your child's thigh, upper arm or buttock. Count to 3 before removing the needle.
6. Turn your child onto their side. This can help prevent them from choking if they vomit.
7. If there is an emergency, call 911. If there IS NOT an emergency, call Pediatric Endocrinology at 617-726-2909 for next steps.
8. Throw the needle away in a sharps container, if possible. If not, replace the cap on the needle. Throw it away in a sharps container when you find one.

WHAT SHOULD I DO AFTER GIVING GLUCAGON?

If there IS an emergency, call 911.

If there IS NOT an emergency, call Pediatric Endocrinology at 617-726-2909 for next steps.