



SECTION 11: CARE OF THE CHILD WITH DIABETES

11.5 Administration of Glucagon

Aim

To raise the blood glucose level during a severe hypoglycaemic episode in a drowsy, uncooperative or unconscious patient.

Key points

- Do not put anything into the mouth of an unconscious person.
- Glucagon will only work if there are stores of glycogen in the liver.¹
- Glucagon doses must be ordered by a medical officer.

Dose

For children and adolescents over 25kg give the full dose (1mL) ¹

If the child is less than 25kg, give half the dose (0.5mL)

Equipment

Injection tray


GlucaGen[®] Hypokit 1mg/mL (Glucagon powder and syringe pre-filled with sterile water)

Steps	Additional Information
If the patient is unconscious, place in a coma position. Ascertain the child's Blood Glucose Level (BGL).	
Remove the cap from the vial and guard from the syringe.	
Insert the needle into the rubber stopper of the GlucaGen [®] vial and inject all the water from the syringe. Mix well.	
Once the tablet is dissolved, draw up the entire contents of the vial and expel air.	Take care not to pull the plunger out of the syringe.

Steps	Additional Information
Administer glucagon at a 90° angle into the subcutaneous/ or muscle tissue of the leg or buttock.	There is no need to swab the skin prior to injecting the glucagon. Refer to PNPM 2.5.5 Subcutaneous Injections and 2.5.6 Intramuscular Injections
Once the patient is conscious and able to swallow, give oral carbohydrate as per PNPM 11.7.1 Treatment of Mild to Moderate Hypoglycaemia in Children with Type One Diabetes.	To restore the liver glycogen, to prevent further hypoglycaemia. ¹
Record severe hypoglycaemic event in the patient's medical record and inform endocrinology registrar of the event.	

Reference:

1. Novo Nordisk. GlucaGen Hypokit: Consumer medicine information [Manufacturer's instructions]. Bagsvaerd, Denmark; n.d.

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