

# diabetes: mini-dose glucagon

## what is it?

People with diabetes who take insulin should have an emergency glucagon kit nearby at all times. Glucagon is a hormone that raises the blood sugar. The emergency glucagon shot should be given if a person with diabetes' blood sugar is severely low and is causing them to pass out or have a seizure. Smaller doses of glucagon can also be given if they have a low blood sugar and are throwing up or are not able to get it up with food or fluids by mouth.

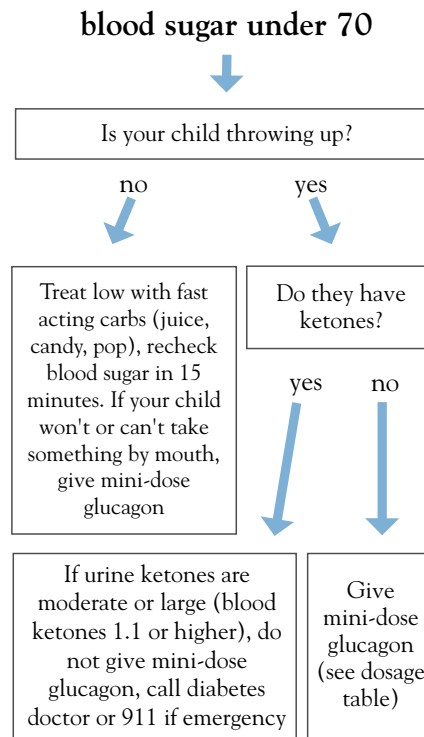
## when to give:

- If your child's blood sugar is under 70 and she is throwing up or will not eat or drink.
- If your child got too much rapid-acting insulin by accident and is not able to eat or drink enough carbs to keep the blood sugar up.

## when not to give:

- If your child has moderate or large ketones - call your child's diabetes doctor for instructions.

## use the mini-dose glucagon decision tree to help you decide when to give this:

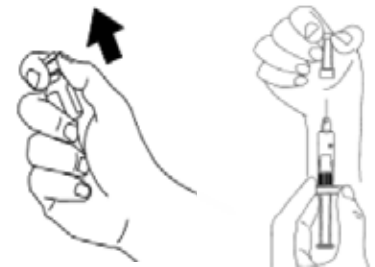


## how to mix

Step 1: You will need the emergency glucagon kit and an insulin syringe (insulin syringe is not included in the emergency kit).



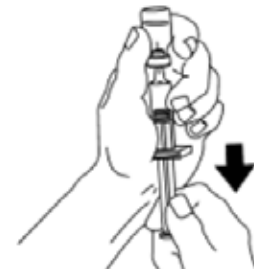
Step 2: Take the gray caps off the vial and syringe from the glucagon kit



Step 3: Inject the liquid from the syringe into the vial. Swirl the vial in a circle to dissolve the powder. Swirl until the liquid is clear again.



Step 4: Draw the correct dose (see the dosage table) from the vial using an insulin syringe (not the syringe that came in the glucagon kit).



## dosage table for mini-glucagon: how to give

| child's age        | first dose (using insulin syringe)  | second dose (using insulin syringe)  |
|--------------------|---|--|
| under 2 years old  | 2 units   | 4 units  |
| 3 to 15 years old  | 1 unit per year of age<br>Example: dose would be 4 units for a 4 year old | 2 units per year of age<br>Example: dose would be 8 units for a 4 year old |
| 16 years and older | 15 units  | 30 units   |

1. Mix the glucagon according to the directions.
2. Draw up the first dose from the glucagon vial using an insulin syringe (see dosage table).
3. Give the shot like you would an insulin shot. Glucagon may cause your child to throw up. Call your child's diabetes doctor to see if they can order medicine if your child is throwing up.
4. Recheck the blood sugar every 15 minutes until the blood sugar is over 70.
5. If the blood sugar is still under 70 after 30 minutes and your child is unable to eat or drink, give the second dose of mini-glucagon (see dosage table).
6. Recheck the blood sugar every hour until the blood sugar is staying up.
7. You can give the mini-dose glucagon every hour if needed to keep the blood sugar above 70. After the second dose is given, you can give either the first dose or second dose amount (whichever works best to get the blood sugar up).
8. Once your child is able to eat or drink, have them eat something with carbs. Give them some fast acting carbs like juice, candy or regular pop and some long acting carbs like crackers with cheese or peanut butter.

### storage

Keep mixed glucagon in refrigerator between uses. Throw away any unused glucagon 24 hours after it was mixed.

**Call your child's diabetes doctor to request a new glucagon kit prescription.**

