

	Department Name Address	ALS	Paramedic
		Revision #	
		Implementation Date	
Protocol	2.1.24 Diabetic Emergencies - Adult	Last Reviewed/Update Date	
Author / Owner		Medical Director	

Glucose, a form of sugar, is the body's basic source of energy. An abnormal blood sugar level has an effect on all organs including the heart and the brain. Returning to normal perfusion as quickly as possible is the ultimate goal.

Conscious patient – low blood sugar

1. Baseline care standards.
2. Administer high flow oxygen.
3. Obtain blood glucose level. If blood glucose is < 60mg/dl:
 - Establish IV and administer *Dextrose 50% at 2ml/kg*.
4. If the patient is wearing an insulin pump, turn it off.
 - a. Administration of glucose should not be delayed to turn off the pump.
5. If unable to establish an IV, administer *1mg Glucagon IM*.
6. When mental status has returned to normal, the patient should be strongly encouraged to eat a carbohydrate snack.

Conscious patient – high blood sugar

It is uncommon for an ambulance to be dispatched for a patient with a high blood sugar as this is a slow onset illness. However, it is possible in a new onset of Type II diabetes or if the patient has a history of diabetes and has been ill for a few days.

1. Baseline care standards.
2. Administer high flow oxygen.
3. Obtain blood glucose level.
4. Establish IV Normal Saline and;

- IV fluid bolus of 20ml/kg over 30-60 minutes for blood glucose levels above 300 mg/dl.
 - TKO/KVO if glucose level is below 300mg/dl.
5. If the patient is wearing an insulin pump, leave it on.
 6. Transport in the recovery position.
 7. If patient is altered and you are unable to determine by blood sample or history, treat as low.

Unconscious Patient

Patients that are unconscious should never have anything by mouth.

1. Baseline care standards.
2. Administer high flow oxygen.
3. Obtain blood glucose level.
4. **Hypoglycemic (< 60mg/dL)** - Establish IV and administer *Dextrose 50% at 2ml/kg*.
5. **Hyperglycemic-**
 - a. IV fluid bolus of 20ml/kg over 30-60 minutes for blood glucose levels above 300 mg/dl.
 - b. TKO/KVO if glucose level is below 300mg/dl.
6. If the patient is wearing an insulin pump and is hypoglycemic, turn it off.
7. Transport in the recovery position.
8. Monitor airway and vital signs closely.
9. If not transporting, ensure that the patient has eaten a carbohydrate snack.

Medical Director's Signature

Date

Disclaimer:

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