

	Department Name Address	BLS	EMT
		Revision #	
		Implementation Date	
Protocol	4.1.24 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 and the patient is able to swallow, administer:
 - *oral glucose gel.*
4. If the patient is wearing an insulin pump, turn it off.
 - a. Administration of oral glucose should not be delayed to turn off the pump.
5. The patient should be transported in the recovery position.

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. If the patient is wearing an insulin pump, leave it on.
5. Transport in the recovery position.
6. 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. If the patient is wearing an insulin pump, turn it off.
5. Transport in the recovery position.
6. Monitor airway and vital signs closely.

Medical Director's Signature

Date

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