

## Glucagon

Glucagon is a hormone that causes the liver to release sugar into the blood when blood sugars are low. Glucagon is used to treat a severe low blood sugar, when a child is unable to safely eat or drink. Glucagon is given by injection and works quickly. You should see improvements in low blood sugar symptoms within 15 minutes.

### Glucagon Kit

A Glucagon kit consists of a bottle containing a white glucagon tablet and a syringe prefilled with sterile water.

To activate the glucagon: mix the water in the syringe with the glucagon tablet. **ONLY** mix the two **just before** you are going to give the glucagon.

Keep the glucagon kit in an agreed-upon place so everyone knows where it is. Always have a non-expired glucagon kit at home and when travelling. **Glucagon expires after 1 year.**



What is a Severe Low Blood Sugar?

A severe low blood sugar is an Emergency situation; treatment must be given right away!

### If a person is experiencing a severe low blood sugar

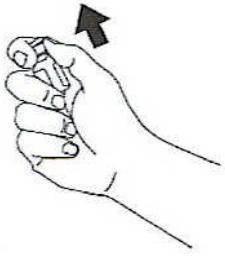
1. **Do not** give anything by mouth
2. Turn child onto their side
3. Inject glucagon

### Call 911

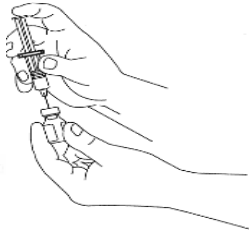
### Signs & symptoms of a severe low blood sugar

- Irritability, poor feeding, rapid breathing, pale skin
- Very low energy, extremely tired, difficult to wake up
- Loss of consciousness
- Convulsions or seizures
  
- If the person is very drowsy, unconscious, is having a convulsion or seizure **do not** give juice or any other liquid by mouth, because of the risk of choking.
- Turn the person onto their side to prevent choking and inject the glucagon. See instructions below.

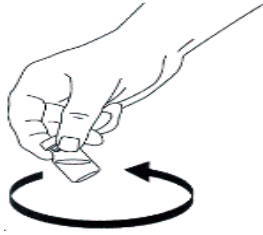
## How to Prepare Glucagon and Inject it



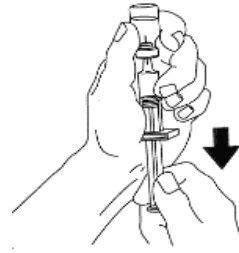
**Step 1**  
Remove the grey flip-off lid from the glucagon bottle



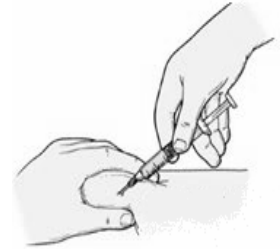
**Step 2**  
Remove the gray needle cap from the syringe  
  
Inject the entire water contents of the syringe into the bottle of glucagon



**Step 3**  
Remove the syringe  
  
Swirl bottle gently until glucagon dissolves completely  
  
Solution should appear clear like water  
  
If the solution is not clear do NOT give!  
Call 911



**Step 4**  
For Infants & toddlers, insert an insulin syringe into the bottle & turn the bottle upside down to withdraw the fluid  
  
For kids that are 14 kg or more, insert the syringe that came with the glucagon into the bottle & turn the bottle upside down to withdraw the fluid



**Step 5**  
Inject glucagon into the centre of the child's thigh  
If the child is:  

- 0-7 kg then give 0.2 mg (20 units)
- 7-10 kg then give 0.3 mg (30 units)
- 10-12 kg then give 0.35 mg (35 units)
- 12-14 kg then give 0.4 mg (40 units)
- 14-16 kg: give 0.5 mg
- > 16kg: give 1.0 mg

### After Giving Glucagon

After the glucagon has been injected your child will still need to go to the emergency department, Call 911

After, examine what happened and determine how this can be prevented in the future!

Remember, a Glucagon Kit is No Good if no One Knows Where It's Kept or How to Use it !

Used with permission of Eli Lilly Canada Inc. For complete information please refer to the Glucagon package insert "information for the patient" or refer to [www.lilly.ca/our\\_medicines/glucagon](http://www.lilly.ca/our_medicines/glucagon)