Hypoglycemia Management

Patient receiving hypoglycemic medications or clinical suspicion of hypoglycemia based on signs and symptoms below:
- Diaphoresis
- Shakiness
- Mental status changes
- Headache
- Hunger

Perform the following STAT:
- Vital signs and oxygen saturation
- Fingerstick glucose level
- Pause subcutaneous insulin pump or IV insulin infusion, if present

**PRESENTATION**

**TREATMENT**

A

Eat/drink 15-20 grams carbohydrates such as one of the following:
- ½ cup fruit juice
- ¾ cup non-diet soda
- 1 cup milk
- 1 tube (15 g) of oral dextrose 40% gel

Recheck fingerstick glucose after 15 minutes

Glucose less than 70 mg/dL?

Yes

No

Has patient received 2 oral treatments for hypoglycemia?

Yes

No

Repeat treatment starting in Box A

Call MERIT team and primary team (or on-call provider, as appropriate)

Glucose less than 70 mg/dL?

Yes

No

Patient remains symptomatic?

Yes

No

Recheck fingerstick glucose in one hour

One-hour glucose less than 70 mg/dL?

Yes

No

Call primary team or on-call provider, as appropriate

Able to eat/drink by mouth?

Yes

No

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1 If patient has an insulin pump and symptoms of hypoglycemia, ask patient to stop insulin infusion from the pump

**Note:** Call MERIT team at any time if patient in apparent physical distress

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Department of Clinical Effectiveness V5

Approved by the Executive Committee of the Medical Staff on 10/30/2018

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Note: Call MERIT team at any time if patient in apparent physical distress

A

Patient unable to eat or drink by mouth or hypoglycemic despite 2 oral treatments

Able to obtain IV access?

Yes

No

Administer glucagon\(^1\) 1 mg subcutaneously (For patients less than 25 kg, give glucagon\(^1\) 0.5 mg subcutaneously)

Recheck fingerstick glucose after 15 minutes

Glucose less than 70 mg/dL?

Yes

No

Glucose less than 70 mg/dL or patient remains symptomatic?

Recheck fingerstick glucose after 15 minutes

Yes

Call primary team or on-call provider, as appropriate

No

Glucose less than 70 mg/dL?

Yes

No

Recheck fingerstick glucose in one hour

Yes

Patient remains symptomatic?

No

Recheck fingerstick glucose in one hour

Yes

No

Document hypoglycemic event and interventions in bedside glucose record

Disposition per provider

One-hour glucose less than 70 mg/dL?

Yes

No

B

For patients greater than 25 kg: dextrose 50%, 50 mL (25 grams) IV push over 1 minute followed by normal saline flush

For patients 5 – 25 kg: dextrose 50% 1 mL/kg IV push over 1 minute followed by normal saline flush

For patients less than 5 kg: dextrose 10%, 5 mL/kg IV push and contact provider for dextrose 10% normal saline IV fluid orders

For patients greater than 25 kg:
dextrose 50%, 50 mL (25 grams) IV push over 1 minute followed by normal saline flush

For patients 5 – 25 kg: dextrose 50% 1 mL/kg IV push over 1 minute followed by normal saline flush

For patients less than 5 kg: dextrose 10%, 5 mL/kg IV push

Additionally for patients less than 25 kg, contact provider for dextrose 10% normal saline IV fluid orders

Glucose less than 70 mg/dL?

Yes

No

Recheck fingerstick glucose after 15 minutes

Yes

Call primary team or on-call provider, as appropriate

No

Repeat treatment starting at Box B

\(^1\) Note: If glucagon is contraindicated, provider will indicate an alternate treatment plan

In an emergency, satellite pharmacy will dispense glucagon without order

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SUGGESTED READINGS


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