

When and how to give your child with hyperinsulinism glucagon

Glucagon is a hormone made by the pancreas. It is used to treat severely low blood glucose levels. It raises the blood glucose by signalling the liver to quickly release glucose into the blood.

*Always remember to check the expiry date of your supply of glucagon to make sure your supply is never out of date.

When to give glucagon

Use glucagon when your child has a severe hypo (low). Your child may be:

- uncooperative to the point that you cannot give juice or sugar by mouth
- unconscious
- having a seizure.

*If your child is unconscious or having a seizure, place them on their side in the coma position.

How to give glucagon

- Remove the orange cap from the bottle and remove the needle guard from the syringe.
- Insert the needle into the bottle through the rubber stopper.
- Slowly inject the sterile water from the syringe into the bottle of powder and mix gently.
- Draw up glucagon based on your child's weight, as per the table below:

Child's weight	Glucagon dose (ml)
Under 25kg	0.5ml
Over 25kg	1ml

- Inject the glucagon into the subcutaneous tissue into the upper outer aspect of buttock or the outer middle of the thigh.

What next?

- It may take 10 to 15 minutes for your child to fully respond
- Once your child is alert, give juice or other fast-acting sugar
- After the fast-acting sugar, give your child a longer-acting carbohydrate. This stops the blood glucose from dropping too low again.



Are there any side effects of using glucagon?

Your child may have an upset stomach or vomit after having glucagon. This can last up to 24 hours.

Medical contact details

Ambulance	000
Perth Children's Hospital:	6456 2222
Dept. Endocrinology & Diabetes	6456 1111
Endocrine Nurse	Email: PCHendolaiisonurse@health.wa.gov.au
On call endocrinologist (emergency)	6456 5993

If your child ever requires glucagon, please call the endocrinologist on-call.

Please ensure that you obtain a script to replace your glucagon – either from your general practitioner (GP) or the endocrine clinic.



Government of **Western Australia**
Child and Adolescent Health Service

**This document can be made available
in alternative formats on request for a
person with a disability.**

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