

Glucagon

Formulary

Douglas County Kansas EMS System

March 2021

Approved Provider: AEMT, Paramedic

Referenced Protocols: [Diabetic Emergencies](#)

Dosing and Administration	
<u>ADULT Medications:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">0.5-1.0 mg IM	<u>PEDIATRIC Medications:</u> Refer to HandTevy <ul style="list-style-type: none">Less than 5 years old 0.03mg/kg IM (Max 1mg)Greater than 5 years old 0.5-1.0 mg IM

Pharmacology and Actions:

- Glucagon is a hormone secreted by the pancreas Administration raises blood glucose levels by causing the breakdown of hepatic glycogen stores into glucose. Exogenous administration can also stimulate catecholamine release

Indications:

- Symptomatic hypoglycemia, confirmed with a rapid bedside glucose test, when no IV line is available
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Contraindications:

- Known hypersensitivity to glucagon
- Known adrenal gland tumor such as pheochromocytoma (due to extreme hypertension from possible catecholamine release)

Precautions:

- Glucagon is only effective if there are sufficient stores of glycogen within the liver
- Supplemental glucose should be given to prevent secondary hypoglycemia as soon as the patient is conscious and able to tolerate oral administration

Administration:

- Acceptable routes of administration include Intramuscular (IM), Intravenous (IV)

Side Effects:

- Nausea and vomiting
- Hypotension
- Ventricular Tachydysrhythmias

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Special Considerations:

- Consider oral glucose if mental status permits use
- Return to consciousness following the administration of glucagon usually takes 5-20 minutes