

# Glucagon

## Information for patients and families

### What is glucagon?

Glucagon is a hormone. When you inject it into the body, the liver releases sugar and raises the blood sugar level. There is no danger of overdose.

### When should I give Glucagon?

Use Glucagon to treat a low blood sugar when the person is:

- Unconscious
- Having a seizure
- If they will not or cannot take a fast acting sugar by mouth

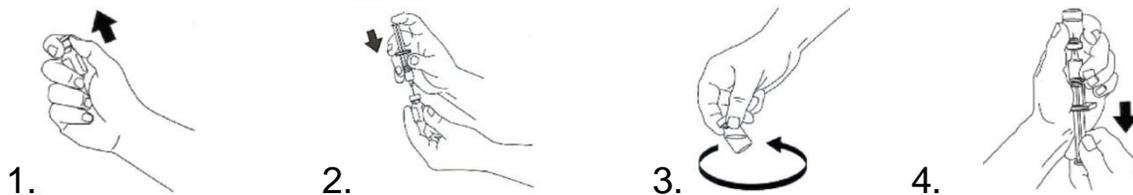
### How do I prepare Glucagon?

Glucagon is injected and comes in a kit with the following supplies:

- A small bottle of Glucagon as a powder
- A syringe filled with sterile liquid

### Steps (see the pictures on the back)

1. Remove the cap from the bottle and needle cap from the syringe.
2. Inject the liquid from the syringe into the bottle of glucagon powder.
3. Roll the bottle gently until clear to mix. **Do not shake the bottle.**
4. Pull the fluid back into the syringe.



## How to administer Glucagon

1. Inject right after mixing
2. Inject at 90 degrees into a fatty area on the belly, buttock, arm or thigh.
3. Inject all of the liquid in the syringe.

## What to do after the injection

1. Turn the person on their side to prevent choking in case they vomit.
2. Call 911
3. The person will normally respond within 10 minutes, but if not, medical help should be on their way.
4. Feed the person as soon as they wake up:
  - Give a fast acting sugar (glucose tablets, juice, honey, sugar).
  - Also give a longer acting snack (cheese/peanut butter and crackers/bread).
5. If the person is not able to eat, medical help should be on their way.
6. Contact your doctor or health care provider to discuss why you had a severe low blood sugar and how to prevent it from happening again.

St. Michael's cares about your health. For reliable health information, visit our Patient and Family Learning Centre, Room 6-004, 6th floor, Cardinal Carter Wing, or find us online at [www.stmichaelshospital.com/learn](http://www.stmichaelshospital.com/learn)

This information is not intended as a substitute for professional medical care. Ask your healthcare provider about this information if you have questions.

72950 Dev. Jan13 2016 V1

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