

# Glucagon

## GENERIC NAME

Glucagon Hydrochloride

## TRADE NAME

None

## DESCRIPTION

Glucagon is used to increase blood glucose levels, particularly in cases where an IV line cannot be immediately established. Intramuscular (IM) administration results in a quicker onset than subcutaneous (SQ) and is therefore the preferred route.

## HOW SUPPLIED

Vial: 1 mg powder (activated by injection of 1 cc sterile water)

## INDICATIONS

- Hypoglycemia

## CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Allergy or hypersensitivity to Glucagon

## MECHANISM OF ACTION

Glucagon increases circulating blood glucose levels by promoting the breakdown of stored glycogen to glucose. Return to consciousness typically occurs within 5–20 minutes after administration. However, Glucagon may lose its effectiveness if given within the previous 48 hours.

## SIDE EFFECTS

- Hypotension
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Nausea and vomiting

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

After administration of Glucagon, the patient should eat a carbohydrate-rich meal as soon as possible to prevent recurrent hypoglycemia.

## AUTHORIZATION

**EMT:** Not authorized

**AEMT:** Not authorized

**Paramedic:** Standing order

## DOSAGE

- **Adult:** 1 mg IM/SQ
- **Pediatric < 20 kg:** Refer to specific dosages listed in the 402 – Drug Dosage Chart – Pediatric
- **Pediatric > 20 kg:** 1 mg IM/SQ

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