

HEALTH POLICY
RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Glucagon Administration

Purpose: To provide life saving medication in the event of severe hypoglycemia, low blood sugar.

Hypoglycemia Overview

Hypoglycemia, also called “low blood glucose” or “low blood sugar,” is one of the most frequent complications of diabetes and can happen very suddenly. Hypoglycemia occurs when a student’s blood glucose level falls below the student’s target blood glucose range. Hypoglycemia usually can be treated easily and effectively. If it is not treated promptly, however, hypoglycemia can lead to unconsciousness and convulsions and can be life threatening. Early recognition of its symptoms and prompt treatment, in accordance with the physician’s written orders for the student, are necessary for preventing severe symptoms that may place the student in danger. This information, contained in the Emergency Plan, should be provided to all school personnel who have responsibility for the student with diabetes.

Signs of hypoglycemia: **mild to moderate:** can include shakiness, nervousness, sweating, clamminess, irritability, confusion, lightheadedness, hunger and nausea, sleepiness, blurred/impaired vision, tingling or numbness in the lips or tongue, headache, weakness; **severe:** inability to swallow, convulsions and unconsciousness .

Glucagon Overview

Glucagon is a hormone that raises blood glucose levels by causing the release of glycogen (a form of stored carbohydrate) from the liver. It is administered when the student’s blood glucose level gets so low that the student passes out, is unresponsive, experiences seizures, or cannot safely eat, drink or swallow. Although it may cause nausea and vomiting when the student regains consciousness, glucagon can be a life-saving treatment and cannot harm a student, even if the student’s blood sugar is already high.

Storing Glucagon

Glucagon may be stored at room temperature according to the manufacturer’s directions. The school nurse and trained designated personnel must have ready access to the glucagon emergency kit at all times, including on field trips and during a disaster.

Policy and Procedure for Glucagon Administration

A doctor's order for glucagon will be on file.

Student will have a diabetes care plan and an emergency care plan in place.

A student showing signs and symptoms of hypoglycemia will have their blood sugar tested to determine if glucagon is necessary to be given.

Glucagon will be stored in a conspicuous place in the nurse's office and students with permission to self-carry will keep glucagon with them at all times.

Glucagon will be administered according to the medical order on file and the student's emergency care plan.

The school nurse will be responsible to assess the student and test the student's blood sugar and administer the glucagon.

If a blood glucose meter is not readily available and the student is exhibiting the signs and symptoms of severe hypoglycemia, treat the student with glucagon if it has been prescribed by the student's physician and a trained person is available. If there is no prescription for glucagon treat as per the student's DMMP, and call 911 and the student's parent/guardian.

In the absence of the school nurse: the [RI General Assembly passed a law](#) in July 2008 pertaining to the Health and Safety of Pupils that allows non medical school personnel in the absence of the School Nurse, to administer glucagon to a child with diabetes who is experiencing a diabetes-related emergency. Consequently, the Departments of Education and Health worked together to develop the policies, procedures and training required to implement this law (see glucagon administration training below).

911 will be called.

At no time will the student be left alone.

The nurse and/or staff will stay with the student while waiting for EMS (Emergency Medical System) to arrive.

The student will be given a sugary liquid as per his/her care plan once they have woken up.

- Parents/Guardians will be contacted immediately by other staff (if available) and notified of the event, the hospital to be transported to; Hasbro Children's Hospital, 593 Eddy St, Providence, RI 02903 and the phone number [\(401\) 444-4000](#). permission to treat their child. Director or Assistant Director, in the absence of the Director, is to be notified immediately.

Steps for Administering Glucagon

Remove the cap from the glass vial containing dry powder
Remove cap from syringe and insert the needle into the vial through the rubber stopper.
Inject all the fluid in syringe into the bottle containing the dry powder
Shake gently or roll to mix until all powder is dissolved and solution is clear Inspect the vial. The solution should be clear and colorless. Do not administer if discolored or does not dissolve well.
Hold the vial upside down in one hand
Insert the syringe into the vial
Draw the prescribed amount of solution into the syringe (refer to physician's written orders for the student)
Clean the site, if possible. The best sites for injection are buttocks, thighs, and upper arms
Inject the glucagon at 90° angle into the tissue under cleansed area
Push syringe plunger all the way down
Count to five
Remove needle from skin and dispose of syringe safely into a sharps container
Dispose of any unused portion of the mixed glucagon
Confirm that 911 has been called
Stay with the student, keeping him/her on their side until they regain consciousness or emergency personnel have arrived.

It can take up to 20 minutes for the student to regain consciousness. It is likely that emergency personnel will have arrived on the scene and will have taken responsibility for treatment. If they have not:

Check blood glucose
Give sips of fruit juice or regular soda once the student is awake and able to eat or drink
Follow the physician's written orders for the student
Record the glucagon administration in the student's health record and on the medication log

Do not be surprised if:
The student does not remember being unconscious, is incoherent or has a headache
Blood glucose becomes very high (over 200)
Nausea or vomiting occur .

Policy for Glucagon Administration Training

As per the Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs:

19.4 As part of the ECP/EHCP, a parent or legal guardian of any child may expressly authorize school employees or those employed on behalf of the school, for when there is no school nurse immediately available, to administer glucagon on such child in case of an emergency, while at school or school-sponsored activities.

19.4.1 A parent or legal guardian shall provide a diabetes management plan or physician's order, signed by the student's health care provider, that prescribes the care and assistance needed by the student including glucagon administration.

19.4.2 The glucagon shall be kept in a conspicuous place, readily available.

19.4.3 Glucagon administration training may be provided by a licensed physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or registered nurse, however in no case shall school nurse teachers be required to provide training.

19.4.3.1

The school administration shall allow staff to voluntarily assist with the emergency administration of glucagon when authorized by a parent or legal guardian.

19.4.3.2

A school employee, including administrative staff, shall not be subject to penalty or disciplinary action for refusing to be trained in glucagon administration.

19.4.3.3

The training and supervision of personnel, other than the school nurse, who provide emergency medical assistance to students under this section, shall be governed by performance standards and guidelines developed by the Department, in conjunction with the American Diabetes Association, and the Rhode Island chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Such personnel shall only be authorized to provide such assistance upon successful completion of glucagon administration training.

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19.4.4 No school teacher, school administrator, school health care personnel, person employed on behalf of the school, any other school personnel, nor any local educational authority shall be liable for civil damages which may result from acts or omissions in use of glucagon which may constitute ordinary negligence. This immunity does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton conduct.

19.5 All school personnel who may be involved in the care of a student who has been diagnosed with diabetes shall be informed of the IHCP and the ECP/EHCP, as appropriate.

Sources

Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs

Web.diabetes.org/Advocacy/school/glucagon.pdf