

<b>Medication:</b> Glucagon	<b>PDN:</b> 6936.02	<b>Last Updated:</b> June 20, 2013	<b>PMD:</b> Andrew Travers*	<b>PDC:</b> Steven Carrigan*	Page 1 of 2
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## GLUCAGON

### 1.0 Classification

- Antihypoglycemic

### 2.0 Mechanism of Action

- Stimulates the release of glycogen from the liver, which is broken down to glucose and increases blood sugar levels

### 3.0 Indications

- Patients with signs of hypoglycemia and a blood glucose level less than 4.0 mmol/L who are unable to take oral glucose and an IV cannot be established

### 4.0 Contraindications

- Known hypersensitivity
- Pheochromocytoma

### 5.0 Precautions

- Do not dilute powder or solution with normal saline

### 6.0 Route

- May be given IM or SC

### 7.0 Dosage

#### Adult

- 1 mg IM mid-deltoid, repeat in 20 minutes if necessary

#### Pediatric (greater than or equal to 20 kg)

- 1 mg IM or SC mid-deltoid, repeat in 20 minutes if necessary

#### Pediatric (less than 20 kg)

- 0.5 mg IM or SC mid-deltoid, repeat in 20 minutes if necessary

### 8.0 Supplied

- 1 mg glucagon (powder) and 1 mL of diluting solution

### 9.0 May Be Given By

- PCP/ICP/ACP/CCP

### 10.0 Adverse effects

- Nausea/vomiting
- Dizziness
- Decrease in blood pressure

### 11.0 Special notes

- Though glucagon can be used as an antidote for beta-blocker overdose, it requires high-doses which are most often unavailable in the pre-hospital setting
- Pregnancy category B [if there is a clinical need for it, Category B drugs are considered safe to use]

## **12.0 References**

- Altered Level of Consciousness Clinical Practice Guideline
- Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties (CPS)

\*Electronically Signed

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