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)

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