Glucagon Emergency Kits and Using Glucagon for Severe Hypoglycemia

Glucagon is safe; it is a hormone made in the pancreas and raises blood glucose. There is no danger of taking too much. Possible side effects are nausea and vomiting.

The kit contains everything you need in case your child has a severe low blood glucose. The kit includes a bottle of glucagon (the dry powder) and a syringe of clear liquid.

Points to Remember:
- Check the manufacturer’s expiration date on the kit or on the vial that contains the glucagon powder at the time of purchase. Write the expiration date of your kit on your calendar.
- When your kit expires, practice mixing and drawing up glucagon before throwing it away.
- After mixing, solution should be clear and used immediately. Discard any unused portion and reorder kit.

Mixing and Drawing Up Glucagon

1. Remove the flip-off seal from the bottle of glucagon.

2. Remove the needle protector from the syringe, and inject the entire contents of the syringe into the bottle of glucagon.

3. Remove the syringe and shake bottle gently until liquid is clear. This cannot be mixed ahead of time.

4. Using the same syringe, draw the glucagon into the syringe to the prescribed dose.

Giving the Glucagon

1. Insert the needle into your child’s thigh and inject the entire contents of the syringe. Withdraw the needle from the skin. Turn your child onto his or her side, in case of nausea and vomiting.

2. Call 911 and the student’s parent.

3. When the child wakes up and can swallow, urge the child to take small sips of a carbohydrate-containing fluid (fruit juice or regular pop). If tolerated, follow with 15 grams of a carbohydrate and a fat-containing food (such as cheese and crackers).