

DIABETIC EMERGENCIES

Hypoglycemia, or low blood sugar, is a common emergency faced by diabetic patients. Rapid recognition and treatment by EMS personnel is important. Confusion and altered mental status are the most common symptoms of hypoglycemia; however, diabetic patients may have various complaints and are at risk for a multitude of medical problems. Diabetic patients may also become ill from hyperglycemia or high blood sugar, which may lead to diabetic ketoacidosis.

- A. Perform **Initial Treatment / Universal Patient Care Protocol**.
- B. Assess level of consciousness and blood glucose level.
- C. Hypoglycemia Treatment:
 - 1. If patient is awake and alert **OR** awake and confused with a blood glucose level <60 mg/dl:
 - a. Administer 15 gm of oral glucose and recheck blood glucose level.
 - b. If blood glucose level remains <60 mg/dl, administer a second dose of oral glucose 15 gm and reassess blood glucose level.
 - 2. If patient is unconscious or cannot maintain airway with blood glucose level <60 mg/dl:
 - a. Secure airway.
 - b. Request ALS backup and contact **Medical Command**.
- D. Transport and continue treatment en route.



- E. If patient is unconscious with a blood glucose level >60 mg/dl consult **Medical Command** and consider treatment per **Unconscious Patient Protocol 6605**.

