

DIABETIC EMERGENCIES

Diabetic patients may have various complaints and are at risk for a multitude of medical problems. Diabetic patients may also become ill from hyperglycemia which may lead to diabetic ketoacidosis.

- A. Perform **Initial Treatment / Universal Patient Care Protocol**.
- B. Assess level of consciousness and blood glucose level by glucometer.
- C. Draw labs if time permits.
- D. Hypoglycemia Treatment:
 - 1. If patient is awake and oriented with no signs of altered mental status or confusion and simply has a blood glucose reading <60 mg/dl which is abnormal for the patient: Administer 15 gm of oral glucose and recheck blood glucose level.
 - 2. If patient is malnourished, has HIV/AIDS, receives dialysis, is a known alcoholic, or has other grossly impaired nutritional status, administer: **Thiamine** 100 mg slow IVP over one (1) minute, prior to **Oral Glucose**, **Dextrose**, or **Glucagon** administration
 - 3. If blood glucose is < 60 mg/dl, **Dextrose 50%** in water (**D50W**) - 25 grams IVP may be repeated once after five (5) minutes if patient remains hypoglycemic.
 - 4. If unable to initiate an IV, and blood glucose is < 60 mg/dl, administer **Glucagon** 1mg IM (if over 25 kg) or 0.5 mg IM (if < 25 kg).
- E. Hyperglycemia:
 - 1. If blood glucose is > 300 mg/dl and patient has signs and symptoms of diabetic ketoacidosis such as Kussmaul respirations, acetone smell on breath, and/or history of not taking insulin administer 1 Liter bolus of **Normal Saline**; may repeat once if glucose remains > 300 mg/dl.
 - a. Bolus gently with 250 ml at a time if patient has a history of end stage renal disease, is a dialysis patient, or has a history of congestive heart failure.
 - b. After each bolus reassess patient for signs of fluid overload.
- F. Reassess mental status and blood glucose level.

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G. Consider cardiac monitoring looking for peaked “T” waves if time permits.

H. If blood glucose level remains < 60 mg/dl or > 300 mg/dl with associated signs and symptoms contact **Medical Command** for additional treatment.

