

ORAL GLUCOSE ADMINISTRATION

1. Level: EMT, AEMT, Paramedic, RN
2. Indications: Hypoglycemia in a patient with the ability to swallow—may see the following signs and symptoms:
 - 2.1. Rapid onset of altered mental status
 - 2.1.1. after missing a meal on a day the patient took prescribed insulin;
 - 2.1.2. after vomiting a meal on a day the patient took prescribed insulin;
 - 2.1.3. after an unusual amount of physical exercise or work;
 - 2.1.4. may occur with no identifiable predisposing factor.
 - 2.2. Intoxicated appearance, staggering, slurred speech, to unconsciousness
 - 2.3. Elevated Heart Rate
 - 2.4. Cold, clammy Skin
 - 2.5. Hunger
 - 2.6. Seizures
 - 2.7. Uncharacteristic behavior
 - 2.8. Anxiety
 - 2.9. Combativeness
3. Procedure:
 - 3.1. Perform an initial assessment. Determine if the patient's mental status is altered.
 - 3.2. Obtain patient's history. Does the patient have a history of Diabetes? (May have a medical alert tag.)
 - 3.3. Perform a focused history and physical exam and assess patient's vital signs.
 - 3.4. To administer oral glucose to a patient who is awake enough to swallow, squeeze the glucose from the tube into the patient's mouth.
 - 3.5. Alternatively, let the patient squeeze the oral glucose into their mouth.
 - 3.6. Document patient's response to the medication. Record activity and time in the electronic Patient Care Record.
 - 3.7. If the patient becomes unconscious, immediately discontinue administration of glucose. Reassess patient.
 - 3.8. Transport and provide ongoing assessment.