## **NorthShore**

University HealthSystem

## How to use the Glucagon Emergency Kit.

Here are step-by-step instructions for using the Glucagon Emergency Kit. It's important that you, your family, friends, coworkers, and exercise partners read and understand these instructions.

Note: Glucagon should not be mixed until just before it is to be injected. Important product information for glucagon is available from your healthcare professional.

## How to prepare glucagon for injection.

- 1. Remove the flip-off seal from the bottle of glucagon.
  - Wipe the rubber stopper on the bottle with an alcohol swab.
    - 2. Remove the needle protector from the syringe.
      - Inject the entire contents of the syringe into the bottle of glucagon. Note: do not remove the plastic clip from the syringe. This clip prevents the plunger from being pulled out of the syringe.
        - Remove the syringe from the bottle.
          - Shake the bottle gently until the glucagon dissolves and the solution becomes clear. (*Glucagon should not be used unless the solution is clear and of waterlike consistency.*)
          - Glucagon should be injected immediately after mixing.

## How to inject glucagon.

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Glucagon is injected the same way as insulin

- 1. Using the same syringe, withdraw all of the solution (1mg mark on the syringe) from the bottle. For children weighing less than 44 lb (20 kg), withdraw half the solution from the bottle (0.5 mg mark on the syringe).
- 2. Cleanse injection site on buttock, arm, or thigh with an alcohol swab.
- 3. Insert the needle into the loose tissue at the cleansed injection site.
  - Inject all of the glucagon solution. **There is no danger of overdose**.
  - Apply light pressure at the injection site and withdraw the needle.
  - Press an alcohol swab against the injection site.
- 4. Turn the patient on his/her side. When an unconscious person awakens, he/she may vomit. Turning the patient on his/her side will prevent choking.
- 5. **Feed the patient as soon as he/she awakens and is able to swallow**. Give the patient a fast-acting source of sugar such as regular soft drink or orange juice and a longer-acting source of sugar such as crackers and cheese or a meat sandwich.
  - If the patient does not awaken within 15 minutes, give another dose of glucagon and obtain medical help immediately.
    - WARNING: The patient may be in a coma from severe hyperglycemia (extreme high blood sugar) rather than hypoglycemia. In such a case, the patient will NOT respond to glucagon and will require immediate medical attention.
- 6. Even if glucagon revives the patient, his/her doctor should be notified promptly. A doctor should be told whenever severe hypoglycemic reactions occur.

**Be prepared!** Make sure your family and friends have emergency phone numbers, such as those for your doctor and the nearest emergency room. Also, be sure to take your Glucagon Emergency Kit any time you go away on a business trip or a vacation.