

RX

**Drug Name:** Oral Glucose  
**Trade Name:** Glucose, Insta-Glucose  
**REVISED:** November 1, 2017

**Class:**

Monosaccharide  
Carbohydrate

**Mechanism of Action:**

After absorption from GI tract, glucose is distributed in the tissues and provides a prompt increase in circulating blood sugar

**Indications:**

Hypoglycemia

**Contraindications:**

None

**Precautions:**

Altered L.O.C  
Ascertain the patient's ability to swallow an oral preparation of glucose without airway compromise  
Must be swallowed, not absorbed sublingually, or buccally

**Dosage:**

**Adults:**

- 15-45 G PO for patients with an intact gag reflex and who are able to handle their own secretions.

**Pediatrics:**

- 5-45 G PO for patients with an intact gag reflex and who are able to handle their own secretions

**Onset:**

10 minutes

**Side Effects:**

Nausea

**Interactions:**

None

DRUG: ORAL GLUCOSE

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This document is for **reference only**. Please refer to SWO's for specific indications, dosages, and applications

DRUG: ORAL GLUCOSE

**PEARLS:**

- Symptomatic hypoglycemia nearly always means an altered mental status. Altered mental status often means a scene safety issue. **Make sure you are aware of your environment**, have the assistance you need, and leave if you become uncomfortable
- Check a glucometer reading before administering glucose if at all possible. Repeat at least 10 minutes after
- Also, it is acceptable to revive a hypoglycemic patient without using the entire Tube. This is done based on the promptness of the patient response.
- If the patient refuses transport it is important to get them something substantive to eat and that someone will be with them for awhile
- Commonly, there is an explanation for hypoglycemia if you look for it. Poor compliance, increased stress, decreased sleep, illness, change in insulin regiment, etc.
- If a patient becomes symptomatically hypoglycemic from oral hypoglycemics, they should generally be transported
- The effects of long acting insulin are difficult to predict. Therefore, the effects of an intentional overdose on long acting insulin are prolonged and beyond the normal capability of the paramedic to treat and release
- Also, if a patient's family, friends, or relatives are present, they can be a good source of information about the patient's habits and their normal recovery from hypoglycemia
- Follow the Diabetic Treat and Release protocol for diabetics who do not desire transport

**REFERENCE ONLY**