Caring for Your Child
Glucagon

What is Glucagon?
- Glucagon is a hormone.
- It quickly raises the blood sugar (within 10 minutes).
- It is used in an emergency situation:
  - When the blood sugar is less than 50mg/dL
  - When your child is unresponsive
  - If your child is not responding to treatment with juice

How does Glucagon work?
- When you eat, your body stores some of the sugar in the liver.
- Glucagon releases glucose from the liver into the blood.

Who can use it?
- Children who get low blood sugar from too much insulin, such as with diabetes and hyperinsulinism.

When do I use Glucagon?
It should be given when your child:
- Is weak or is not responding to you
- Is unconscious or is having a seizure
- Has a blood sugar less than 50 mg/dL and he will not eat
  **Note:** When the blood sugar is low, eating is the first treatment.
  Only use Glucagon when the blood sugar is low and your child will not eat.
- Is vomiting and the blood sugar is less than 50
- Has a blood sugar that does not rise within 30 minutes after eating

How do I give Glucagon?
- You will give it as an intramuscular (IM) injection.
  - It may also be given into a vein (IV) or under the skin (SQ).
- Each kit has a needle and a syringe made for injecting into the muscle.
- You will mix a liquid with a powder right before you give it.
- Glucagon keeps the blood sugar up for 1-2 hours.
  - Injection may be repeated if needed.
Preparing the Injection:

1. Pull the cap off of the bottle with powder.
2. Pull the cap off the syringe needle.
3. Insert needle into bottle with powder.
4. Push the liquid in the syringe into the bottle with powder.
5. Keep needle in bottle and roll the bottle between your hands to mix.
6. When liquid is totally clear, pull all the liquid back into the syringe.
7. Remove needle from bottle.

Giving the Injection:

1. Insert the needle into the top of the thigh at a 90-degree angle (straight up and down).
2. Push plunger and inject all of the medicine into the thigh.
3. Remove needle and dispose of the syringe/needle safely.
4. Roll your child on his side.

Note:
- Check the expiration date on the Glucagon when you pick it up from your pharmacy.
- Always have a current Glucagon kit available.
- In an emergency, you can inject through your child’s clothes.

Do I need to check the blood sugar after giving Glucagon?
- Check the blood sugar 15 minutes after giving Glucagon.
  - Make sure the blood sugar is back in target range.
  - Feed your child when he wakes up.
  - If the blood sugar is not back in range or your child does not wake up within 10 minutes, call 911 for immediate medical help.

What are the side effects of Glucagon?
- Upset stomach
- Vomiting – if your child vomits, turn him on his side to prevent choking.
- Rash
- Itching