

# Diabetic; Adult

### History

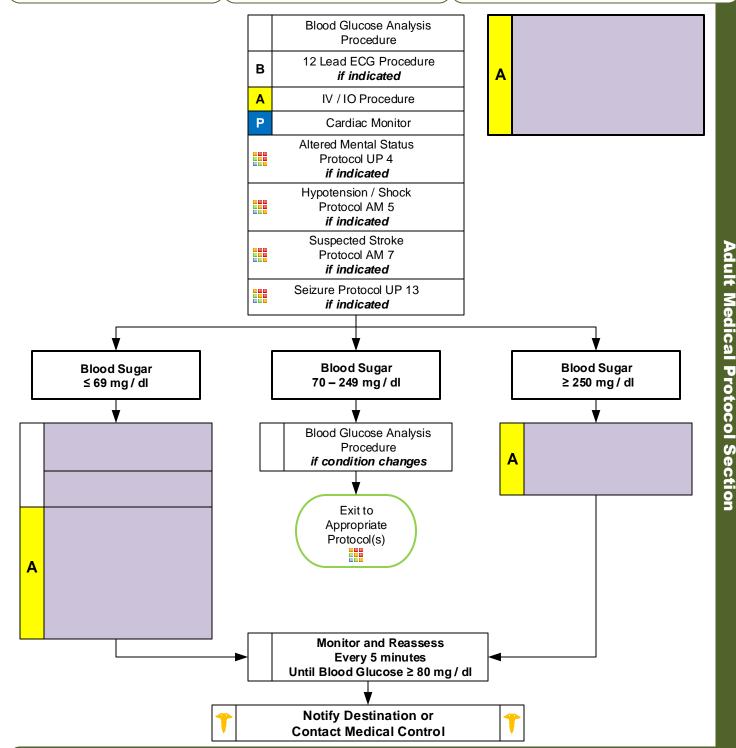
- Past medical history
- Medications
- Recent blood glucose check
- Last meal

### Signs and Symptoms

- Altered mental status
- Combative / irritable
- Diaphoresis
- Seizures
- Abdominal pain
- Nausea / vomiting
- Weakness
- Dehydration
- Deep / rapid breathing

### **Differential**

- Alcohol / drug use
- Toxic ingestion
- Trauma; head injury
- Seizure
- CVA
- Altered baseline mental status





## Diabetic; Adult

#### Pearls

- Recommended exam: Mental Status, Skin, Respirations and effort, Neuro.
- Patients with prolonged hypoglycemia my not respond to glucagon.
- Do not administer oral glucose to patients that are not able to swallow or protect their airway.
- Quality control checks should be maintained per manufacturers recommendation for all glucometers.
- Patient's refusing transport to medical facility after treatment of hypoglycemia:

Blood sugar must be ≥ 80, patient has ability to eat and availability of food with responders on scene.

Patient must have known history of diabetes and not taking any oral diabetic agents.

Patient returns to normal mental status and has a normal neurological exam with no new neurological deficits.

Must demonstrate capacity to make informed health care decisions. See Universal Patient Care Protocol UP-1. Otherwise contact medical control.

### Hypoglycemia with Oral Agents:

Patient's taking oral diabetic medications should be encouraged to allow transportation to a medical facility.

They are at risk of recurrent hypoglycemia that can be delayed for hours and require close monitoring even after normal blood glucose is established.

Not all oral agents have prolonged action so Contact Medical Control for advice.

Patient's who meet criteria to refuse care should be instructed to contact their physician immediately and consume a meal.

### • Hypoglycemia with Insulin Agents:

Many forms of insulin now exist. Longer acting insulin places the patient at risk of recurrent hypoglycemia even after a normal blood glucose is established.

Not all insulin have prolonged action so Contact Medical Control for advice.

Patient's who meet criteria to refuse care should be instructed to contact their physician immediately and consume a meal.

### • Congestive Heart Failure patients who have Blood Glucose > 250:

Limit fluid boluses unless they have signs of volume depletion, dehydration, poor perfusion, hypotension, and / or shock.

• In extreme circumstances with no IV / IO access and no response to glucagon, D50 can be administered rectally. Contact medical control for advice.