

Subject: Medication Administration – BLS (All Providers)
Oral Glucose Administration

I. Class

Monosaccharide Carbohydrate

II. Indications

- A. Suspected or known hypoglycemia.
- B. Altered patient with intact gag reflex.
- C. Known or suspected history of diabetes.
- D. Signs and symptoms of hypoglycemia:
 - 1. Pale/sweaty skin.
 - 2. Confusion.

III. Therapeutic Effects

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

IV. Contraindications

- A. Absolute
 - 1. The patient is unconscious.
 - 2. The patient is unable to swallow on command.
- B. Relative
 - The estimated arrival of ALS personnel is less than 10 minutes.

V. Administration and Dosage

- A. Determine blood glucose if EMT or Paramedic. Oral Glucose may be administered without a blood glucose if the history of the patient includes diabetes when a blood glucose is unavailable.
- B. If blood sugar is less than 70 and patient is able to swallow on command, administer one (1) tube of commercially prepared glucose gel.
- C. If there is some improvement but the patient remains altered, consider repeating oral glucose if ALS is delayed.

VI. Special Information

- A. If the patient's level of consciousness becomes compromised during or after procedure, place in left lateral decubitus position.
- B. Suction, as needed, and be prepared for vomiting.

VII. Base Orders

Standing Order if no contraindications exist.