

DIABETIC COMA AND INSULIN SHOCK FACT SHEET

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	DIABETIC COMA (KETOACIDOSIS)	INSULIN SHOCK (LOW BLOOD SUGAR)
Appearance	Extremely ill	Very weak
Skin	Red and dry	Pale
Mouth	Dry	Drooling
Thirst	Intense	Absent
Hunger	Absent	Intense
Respiratory	Exaggerated air hunger	Normal to shallow
Breath	Acetone	Normal
BP	Low	Normal
Pulse	Rapid	Normal or may be rapid
Mental state	Restless, merging into unconsciousness	Apathy, irritability
Tremor	Absent	Frequent
Improvement	Gradual, 6-12 hours	Immediate, within minutes of carbohydrate administration