

# GLUCAGON

## **ACTION: Hormone/Antihypoglycemic**

- Glucagon is a hormone secreted by the pancreas that causes a breakdown of stored glycogen into glucose and stops glucose conversion into glycogen resulting in increased circulating blood glucose.
- Glucagon is only effective if there are sufficient stores of glycogen in the liver.
- Used in treatment of beta blocker overdose; likely mechanism of action is the increase of cAMP in the myocardium.

## **INDICATIONS:**

- Hypoglycemia when an IV cannot be established to administer D<sub>50</sub>W.
- Patients given Glucagon usually take from 5 to 20 min. to return to consciousness.
- Bradycardia and Hypotension secondary to Beta Blocker Overdose (with Base Hospital Contact).

## **CONTRAINDICATIONS:**

- Hypersensitivity to Glucagon.

## **POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:**

- Hypotension.
- Dizziness and headache.
- Nausea and vomiting.

## **ADULT DOSE/ROUTE:**

⇒ **Hypoglycemia / Beta Blocker Overdose:** 1 mg IM/IV

## **PEDIATRIC DOSE/ROUTE:**

⇒ **Hypoglycemia/Beta Blocker Overdose:**

**Less than 20kg:** 0.5 mg IM/IV

**Greater than 20kg:** 1 mg IM/IV

## **NOTES:**

- Vomiting is very common following glucagon administration
- As soon as patient is awake, give carbohydrates such as orange juice or a meal.

*Effective: 11/01/17  
Supersedes: 03/01/15*