



ACFAS Advisory Glucose Administration

Overall Recommendation including any Standard, Guideline or Option:

Option: the lay rescuer may give glucose to a patient when:

1. the patient is identified as a diabetic, and
2. the patient says he or she needs some sugar or states that he or she is having a hypoglycemic reaction, and
3. the patient is awake and able to swallow liquids (the patient might need assistance holding the glass if the patient is very shaky from the low blood sugar).

EMS should be activated for all patients.

Questions to be addressed:

Should lay rescuers be taught how and when to assist patients with administering glucose (sugar) during a diabetic emergency?

Introduction/Overview:

Some people are diabetic and must balance glucose intake with injectable insulin or oral diabetes medications. A diabetic emergency might be life-threatening and require immediate care.

Glucose is a sugar which often helps during a diabetic emergency and professional rescuers commonly give orally or in an intravenous solution.

Summary:

The lay rescuer may give glucose to a patient when all the following are met:

1. The patient is identified as a diabetic
2. The patient says he or she needs some sugar or states that he or she is having a low sugar (hypoglycemic) reaction, and
3. The patient is awake and able to swallow liquids (the patient might need assistance holding the glass if the patient is very shaky from the low blood sugar).

The EMS should be activated for all patients.