




# Glucagen (glucagon) basics

**Raises blood sugar.** Glucagen (glucagon) can help raise the blood sugar level of an unconscious person back to normal quickly, but emergency medical help is still needed.

## What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
<b>Glucagen (glucagon)</b> Drug effectiveness					
<b>Possible side effects</b>					
<b>Nausea</b> 10% chance					
<b>Vomiting†</b>					

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Starts working in 10 minutes.
- Make sure you and your caretakers know how to quickly use Glucagen (glucagon) because very low blood sugar is dangerous.
- Call 911 or get emergency medical help right away after you use Glucagen (glucagon).
- Eat sugar or a product that contains sugar (candy, juice, soda) as soon as you are able to swallow.
- Let your doctor know every time you use Glucagen (glucagon), as your medicines for your diabetes might need to be adjusted.
- Regularly check your Glucagen (glucagon) kits every few months to make sure they haven't expired.

## Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Pheochromocytoma

If you have a tumor in your adrenal glands called a pheochromocytoma, you can't use Glucagen (glucagon) because your blood pressure can get very high. Talk to your doctor about alternatives and ways to maintain healthy blood sugar levels.

### Insulinoma

If you have a tumor in your pancreas called an insulinoma, talk to your doctor first to see if Glucagen (glucagon) will work for you. Your doctor might suggest alternatives to treat low blood sugar.

### Chronic low blood sugar

Glucagen (glucagon) only works if you're eating a healthy diet. If you always have low blood sugar because of a poor diet or have issues with your adrenal glands, Glucagen (glucagon) won't work. Talk to your doctor about treating low blood sugar.