ONTARIO BASE HOSPITAL GROUP

Date: February 15, 2024

To: All Paramedics

Cc: OBHG MAC, OBHG ESC

From: Ontario Base Hospital Group Education Subcommittee (OBHG ESC)

Re: ALS-PCS v5.3 - Hypoglycemia Medical Directive

In response to a critical shortage of intramuscular (IM) glucagon, intranasal (IN) glucagon has been approved and added to the Hypoglycemia Medical Directive. The MOH released this on February 9, 2024, in the Advanced Life Support Patient Care Standards v5.3.

The conditions for intranasal glucagon are as follows:

Intranasal glucagon powder (NEW)		**(if authorized and available and if not using dextrose) (NEW)**	
Age	≥ 4 years		
LOA	Altered	**Weight**	N/A
HR	N/A	**Dose**	3 mg
RR	N/A	**Max. single dose**	3 mg
SBP	N/A	**Dosing interval**	20 min
Other	Hypoglycemia	**Max. # of doses**	2

All other indications, conditions, and contraindications for glucagon use remain unchanged. The Treat and Discharge component of the medical directive has been updated to include the IN route.

PCP AIV and ACPs should attempt to administer the preferred medication of 10% dextrose for hypoglycemic patients. Where paramedics are not IV certified or unsuccessful in their IV attempts, and the ambulance service operator (ASO) supplies both IM glucagon and IN glucagon, you may consider reserving IM glucagon for patients less than 4 years and use IN for patients greater than or equal to 4 years until the shortage is resolved.

It is imperative to note that the IN glucagon is only suitable for patients aged 4 years and above. Hypoglycemia in children less than 4 years old is rare. Should you encounter a patient experiencing hypoglycemia where dextrose cannot be administered and, glucagon is not available or is contraindicated, consider the administration of oral glucose or other simple carbohydrates provided the patient is able to tolerate oral administration and is able to swallow.

Should oral glucose or other simple carbohydrates not be appropriate, administer supportive care and prioritize transport to the nearest Emergency Department.

Administration technique for IN glucagon:

- Each device contains one dose of 3 mg glucagon and cannot be reused. Do not push the plunger or test the device prior to administration.

- Administer the dose by inserting the tip into one nostril and pressing the device plunger all the way in until the green line is no longer showing. The dose does not need to be inhaled, it is absorbed through the mucous membranes of the nare.

It is the responsibility of the Paramedic to ensure they have reviewed all aspects of the updated medical directive in its entirety and undertaken any training required by their base hospital.

Please reach out to your local base hospital program if you have any further questions.

If you are using the Baqsimi glucagon device, the product monograph can be found here: https://www.baqsimi.ca/en/hcp/product-monograph.