



EMT-Basic Treatment Protocol 6604

Diabetic Emergencies

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Hypoglycemia or low blood sugar is a common emergency faced by diabetic patients. Rapid recognition and treatment by EMS personnel is important. Confusion and altered mental status are the most common symptoms of hypoglycemia, however, diabetic patients may have various complaints and are at risk for a multitude of medical problems. Diabetic patients may also become ill from hyperglycemia or high blood sugar, which may lead to diabetic ketoacidosis.

- A. Perform **MAMP Protocol 6201**.
- B. Assess level of consciousness and blood glucose level.

- C. Contact **Medical Command** and treat as indicated in the following **Diabetic Treatment Chart**::



Blood sugar (BS) level	BS < 40 mg/dl	BS 40-80 mg/dl	BS >80 mg/dl
Awake/alert	Repeat reading. If still <40, administer 15 gm oral glucose and recheck BS.	Administer 15 gm of oral glucose by mouth and recheck blood glucose level.	Monitor patient closely. Note other signs and symptoms.
Confused/unconscious	Administer 15 gm oral glucose and recheck BS, if still < 40, repeat oral glucose.	Administer 15 gm oral glucose and recheck BS. If still < 80 consider repeating oral glucose.	Recheck blood glucose level and consider other causes. Refer to "E" below.

- D. Transport – continue treatment en route.

- E. If patient is unconscious and blood glucose level is > 80 mg/dl, **consult Medical Command** and consider treatment per **Unconscious Patient Protocol 6605**.



- F. If no patient improvement with treatment, request ALS backup – do not delay transport – meet en route.