



UTSW/BioTel EMS ALERT

June 8, 2016

EMS ALERT 16-002

Change to Adult Glucagon Dose Range & “Minimum Carry” Requirement

Purpose:

To notify UTSW/BioTel EMS Providers that, effective immediately, the adult dosage range for glucagon shall be changed to 1 to 2 mg IV/IO/IM/IN.

Background:

1. Prehospital indications for glucagon administration include: second- or third-line treatment for symptomatic hypoglycemia and cardiac dysrhythmias/cardiac arrest due to beta-blocker toxicity.
2. The current UTSW/BioTel EMS System Guidelines for Therapy necessitate a “minimum carry” of five unit doses, in order to meet the adult dosing range of up to 5 mg for adult patients.
3. This creates an excessive cost burden for EMS agencies, especially since few patients will benefit from more than two doses prior to hospital arrival.

Critical Points, Effective Immediately:

1. **For the relevant treatment guidelines, the adult dosage range shall be changed to 1 to 2 mg, reducing the ALS apparatus “minimum carry” to two unit doses.**
 - a. Unless otherwise specified*, the change affects ONLY ADULT dosing guidelines, not pediatric.

Page	Topic	Old	New
20	Altered LOC	Bullet 7 Adult: 1 mg, may repeat once Bullet 11 Adult: 1 – 5 mg	Bullet 7 Adult: No change Bullet 11 Adult: 1 – 2 mg
23	Asystole/PEA	Bullet 4g Adult: 1 – 5 mg	Bullet 4g Adult: 1 – 2 mg
26	Bradycardia	Bullet 8 Adult: 1 – 5 mg	Bullet 8 Adult: 1 – 2 mg
51	Seizure	Bullet 7 Adult: 1 mg, may repeat once	Bullet 7 Adult: No change
68	VF/pulseless VT	Bullet 6 Adult: 1 – 5 mg	Bullet 6 Adult: 1 – 2 mg
152	Glucagon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Adult dose for hypoglycemia: “additional doses” ▲ Adult dose for bradycardia or cardiac arrest (beta-blocker overdose): 1 – 5 mg ▲ Pediatric dose*: “additional doses” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Adult dose for hypoglycemia: “an additional dose” ▲ Adult dose for bradycardia or cardiac arrest (beta-blocker overdose): 1 – 2 mg ▲ Pediatric*: “an additional dose”

Resources: [UTSW/BioTel EMS Guidelines for Therapy](#)

- **UTSW/BioTel EMS Providers may contact BioTel or the [EMS Medical Direction Team](#) at any time with questions or concerns about this Alert, or about any aspect of patient care**