

Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board

Glucogel Administration to an Unconscious Patient Responsible Branch: Emergency Medical Assistants (EMA) Licensing Branch Contact: ClinicalAdvisor@gov.bc.ca	Reference Information (Manual, page number, chapter): https://bctg.bcas.ca/Introduction/Fundamentals https://bctg.bcas.ca/Condition/Principles/8
	Replaces former policy: N/A
	Date Effective: September 21, 2015
	Last Update: October 15, 2015
	Next Review Date: September 21, 2016
Keywords	examinations, diabetic, glucogel, unconscious

1. Policy Rationale & Purpose:

Numerous inquiries have been made in response to the administration of glucogel to an unconscious patient. The EMA Licensing Branch, in conducting practical examinations leading to licensure, has identified inconsistencies between how some training institutions may be teaching their students, and how some candidates are being examined for licensure. The biggest inconsistency between training and licensing examinations has been determining when glucogel should be administered, and whether glucogel should be administered to the patient prior to, or after, transport.

2. Policy Scope

This Examination Policy applies to EMA licensing examiners who are assessing the skills of candidates for licensure during EMA Licensing practical exams for candidates at EMR and higher licence categories.

This Examination Policy also applies to all First Responder Evaluators and Instructors providing EMA FR training and exams (excluding the transport requirement and the use of a glucometer).

3. Policy Statement:

The EMA Licensing Board has directed that best practice for the EMA FR licence category is:

- Glucogel should be considered a medication, therefore, confirmation hypoglycaemia by the patient, the patient's family/caregiver or an EMA licensed at the EMR level or higher, Hx (rule out other causes), set of vitals and positioning should be completed prior to giving glucogel (at the scene)
- Given q 5 min. to a total of 50 g max. (call EPOS for further treatment)
- While the cot is being prepped, the pt. should be positioned ¾ prone and glucogel administered, as long as the airway is not compromised.

The EMA Licensing Board has directed that best practice for the EMR and higher licence categories is:

- Glucogel should be considered a medication, therefore, a blood sugar, Hx (rule out other causes), set of vitals and positioning should be completed prior to giving glucogel (at the scene)
- Given q 5 min. to a total of 50 g max. (call EPOS for further treatment)
- Administration should not delay transport
- While the cot is being prepped, the pt. should be positioned ¾ prone and glucogel administered, as long as the airway is not compromised.

EMA Licensing exams will reflect best practice.

4. Legal Authority:

As per the **EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANTS REGULATION**, all EMA's licensed at or above the EMA FR Schedule 2 category are authorized to administer oral glucose:

"If an EMA holds a licence in the category EMA FR, the licensing board may endorse the licence to permit the EMA to provide one or more of the following services:

(e) administration of oral glucose;"

5. Key Stakeholders:

- *EMA Licensing Branch Examiners*
- *Training Institutions delivering Board-recognized EMA training programs*
- *BCEHS/BCAS*
- *EMA Licensing Candidates*

6. Definitions:

Oral Glucose includes: Glucogel,

7. Resources:

- *BCAS Treatment Guidelines <https://bctq.bcas.ca/>*

Reviewed by the EMA Licensing Board on: 21-09-2015

Approved (director name & signature):



Date approved: September 21, 2015

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