Alberta Healthy Living Program Chronic Disease Management Diabetes Education 403 529 8969

Low Blood Sugar

Less than 4 mmol/L

Causes of Low Blood Sugar:

• Increase in Diabetes medication



- Missed or late meals or snacks.
- Meal with less carbohydrate (starch/sugar) than usual



- More activity than usual. Activity can lower blood sugar for many hours after.
- Drinking alcohol on an empty stomach. Alcohol can lower blood sugar for many hours after.



Signs of Low blood sugar

Sweaty/Chills

Anxious

Hungry

Sick to stomach

Shaky/Trembling

Tingling of lips/tongue

Fast heartbeat

Headache

Drowsy

Dizzy

Vision Changes

Weakness

Confusion/Trouble thinking



Alberta Healthy Living Program Chronic Disease Management Diabetes Education 403 529 8969

Low Blood Sugar

Less than 4 mmol/L

How to Treat a Low Blood Sugar

- 1. Check your blood sugar to see how low you are.
- 2. Stop and treat with quick sugar:



Less than 4 take:

(15 gm sugar)

Less than 2.8 take:

(20+ gm sugar)

4 Dex 4™ glucose tablets

5 Dex 4™ glucose tablets

5 Dextro Energy™ tablets

7 Dextro Energy™ tablets

15 Skittles TM

20 Skittles™

7 Jelly beans

10 Jelly beans

1 Tbsp. Honey or Sugar

2 Tbsp. Honey or Sugar

3/4 cup Regular pop or juice

1 cup Regular pop

- 3. Wait 10-15 minutes, then test blood sugar again.
- 4. If blood sugar remains low, treat again.
- 5. Test 15 minutes later.
- 6. Repeat until blood sugar is above 4.
- 7. If not eating within next hour or you are going to be active, eat a follow up snack.

*Avoid treating lows with fatty foods such as chocolate.

Follow up snack

Goal: to provide carbohydrate for the next hour.

Examples:

- 1 toast with peanut butter
- Cheese or hummus and 7 soda crackers
- 2 plain cookies
- Granola bar
- 3 cups popcorn

If your blood sugar is less than 4 mmol/L after 2 treatments

Contact Emergency (911)