



# Yolo County Emergency Medical Services Agency

Quick Reference

Revised Date: December 14, 2018

## Medication Profile

### Glucagon

#### Class:

Antihypoglycemic Agent/Insulin Antagonist  
Pancreatic Hormone

#### Action:

Glucagon is a protein secreted by the alpha cells of the pancreas. It causes an increase in blood glucose concentration by converting liver glycogen to glucose (glycogenolysis). It inhibits glycogen synthesis and exerts positive inotropic action on the heart and decreases renal vascular resistance.

It is a smooth muscle relaxant of the bronchi, esophagus, stomach, duodenum, small bowel, and colon.

**Onset:** 5-20 minutes

**Peak:** 30 minutes

**Duration:** 60-90 minutes

#### Indications:

Hypoglycemia  
Beta Blocker OD  
Symptomatic Bradycardia with patients  
on Beta Blockers

#### Contraindications:

Hypersensitivity/allergy

#### Side Effects:

CV: Tachycardia, hypotension  
CNS: Headache  
GI: Nausea, vomiting  
INTEG: Urticaria

#### Notes:

Only effective if there are sufficient stores of glycogen in the liver.

**This document is not a substitute for Protocols and Procedures.**

Effective Date: January 1, 2019

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