		Type: Drug Guideline	Document reference: 2906	Manual Classification: Waikato DHB Drug Guidelines
Title: Dextrose Gel for Hypoglycaemia in Neonates			Effective date: 21 October 2020	
Facilitator <small>sign/date</small>	Authorised <small>sign/date</small>	Authorised <small>sign/date</small>	Version: 1	Page: 1 of 2
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BRIEF ADMINISTRATION GUIDE

For detailed information refer to [The Australasian Neonatal Medicines Formulary glucose 40% guideline](#)



Critical Note: there are minor variations between the ANMF and Waikato DHB best practice within this drug guideline – see **yellow shaded text**

Indications: Mild hypoglycaemia (blood glucose <2.6 mmol/L) in neonates \geq 35 weeks gestation and < 48 hours after birth

Note: symptomatic or severe hypoglycaemia should be treated with IV glucose or IM glucagon (refer to guideline #3122 [Hypoglycaemia – guidelines for management](#))

Route: Oral

- Supplied as dextrose 40% oral gel, 50 mL bottle (Unregistered medicine, available under Section 29. Names of the patient and prescriber must be sent to Pharmacy when ordering)
Note: may be referred to as glucose 40% oral gel

Dose: 0.5 mL/kg/dose (200mg/kg/dose)

A repeat dose can be given once per hypoglycaemic episode (up to 1 mL/kg i.e. 2 doses per episode), and **maximum of 6 doses in 48 hours**

Preparation and administration

- Draw up prescribed dose of dextrose oral gel in an oral syringe
- Dry the infant's buccal mucosa with gauze
- Place half of the dose from the syringe onto gloved finger and massage into buccal mucosa of one cheek. Repeat with remainder of the dose inside the other cheek.
- Commence breastfeeding or administer expressed breast milk or formula
- If still hypoglycaemic after 30 minutes repeat the dose

Monitoring


- Measure blood glucose 30 minutes after administration

Storage and Stability

- Store dextrose gel at room temperature, between 15 and 30 °C
- Once opened, discard after 14 days

Competency for Administration

This procedure is carried out by, or under, the direct supervision of a registered nurse/registered midwife who holds current Waikato DHB Generic Medicine Management.

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Associated Documents

- [Hypoglycaemia – guidelines for management](#). Waikato DHB NICU Protocol #3122.

References

- Australian Neonatal Medicines Formulary. Glucose 40% Drug Guideline. 2019. Available from: <https://www.slhd.nsw.gov.au/rpa/neonatal/NeoMedPaperCopy.html>
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- Auckland DHB Newborn Services. Dextrose Gel Drug Protocol. April 2020. Available from: <https://www.starship.org.nz/guidelines/dextrose-gel/>
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