

Dextrose Gel for Hypoglycaemia in Neonates

BRIEF ADMINISTRATION GUIDE

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



Note: Shaded text indicates where Te Whatu Ora Waikato practice differs from ANMF

1. Medicine

1.1. Indications

Hypoglycaemia (blood glucose <2.6 mmol/L) in neonates > 35 weeks gestation and < 48 hours after birth

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

1.2. Route and Presentation

Oral

- Supplied as dextrose 40% oral gel, 50 mL bottle
- Note:** may be referred to as glucose 40% oral gel

1.3. 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.**

2. Preparation and Administration

2.1. Compatible fluids

N/A (use undiluted)

2.2. Administration Method

- 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

2.3. Monitoring

- Measure blood glucose 30 minutes after administration

2.4. Storage and Stability

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

2.5. 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.

3. Associated Te Whatu Ora Waikato Documents

- NICU [Hypoglycaemia – guidelines for management](#) protocol (reference 3122)
- NICU Procedure [Screening and initial treatment for babies in NICU at risk of hypoglycaemia](#) (reference 1900)
- Standing order [Dextrose Oral gel for hypoglycaemia in neonates](#) (reference 6372)

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4. References

- Australian Neonatal Medicines Formulary. Glucose 40% Drug Guideline. 2019. Available from: <https://www.anmfonline.org/clinical-resources/>
- Truven Health Analytics Inc. Pediatrics and Neofax®. 2022. Dextrose monograph. Accessed 18.10.2022. Available from: <http://www.micromedexsolutions.com>.
- Auckland DHB Newborn Services. Dextrose Gel Drug Protocol. April 2020. Available from: <https://www.starship.org.nz/guidelines/dextrose-gel/>
- Canterbury DHB Neonatal Services. Dextrose 40% Drug Information Sheet. February 2020. Available from <https://cdhb.health.nz/wp-content/uploads/3a9982dd-dextrose-40-gel-236743.pdf>

Document Ownership

Document Authorisor: John Barnard	Chair Medicines & Therapeutics Committee
Document Authorisor: Jutta van den Boom	Clinical Director Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
Document Facilitator: Kerrie Knox	Pharmacist

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