



Medication Errors

1. Double dose of insulin given

Short-acting	Premix	Long-acting
<i>Hypoglycaemia effect may last up to 8 hours</i>	<i>Hypoglycaemic effect may last up to 24 hours</i>	<i>The hypoglycaemic may last > 24 hours</i>
Current BG low : 1. Start eating fast-acting carbs 2. Glucagon Hypokit on standby	Current BG low or normal : 1. Start eating fast-acting carbs 2. Glucagon Hypokit on standby	Eat a low GI high carb and high fat meal to keep the BG up (e.g., ice cream or pizza)
Current BG high : 1. Can eat fewer carbs, but have some 2. Glucagon Hypokit on standby	Current BG high : 1. Can eat fewer carbs, but have some 2. Glucagon Hypokit on standby	Check BG every 2 to 3 hours and correct with rapid-acting carbs if dropping
Check BG every hour or two until stable	Will need to follow this up with a low GI carb or high fat meal to sustain BG	
	Check BG every 2 to 3 hours and correct with rapid-acting carbs if dropping	

Abbreviations: BG – blood glucose; GI – glycaemic index.

2. Swapped insulin:

- Times:
 - ❖ Long-acting at dinner instead of bedtime – not an issue
 - ❖ Short-acting at bedtime instead of dinner
 - Glucose level low/normal – Small high/medium glycaemic index (GI) snack with enough carbs to cover the dose
 - Glucose level elevated – No snack required
- Dose:
 - ❖ Took my normal long-acting dose as short acting insulin – The hypoglycaemic effect will last up to 6 hours
 - ❖ What is the current glucose level?
 - Low/normal – Start eating fast-acting carbs, have a Glucagon Hypokit on standby
 - High glucose level – Can eat fewer carbs but have some, have a Glucagon hypokit on standby
 - Check glucose level every hour or every two hours until stable
- Types:
 - ❖ Gave long-acting instead of short-acting

- Glucose level low/normal – Small high/medium glycaemic index (GI) snack with enough carbs
- Monitor glucose levels hourly
- Glucose level elevated – No snack required

❖ Gave short-acting instead of long-acting

- Glucose level low/normal – Small high/medium glycaemic index (GI) snack with enough carbs
- Glucose level elevated – No snack required

3. **Ran out of insulin:**

- Go to a 24-hour pharmacy and obtain a single pen for the missing insulin- the pharmacy will require a script from the practice within 72 hours, please send an email to the practice with your name, the pharmacy name and their email address and a script will be sent through.
 - ❖ Use whatever insulin you have to cover the insulin deficit as best as possible, if not possible, obtain a replacement (phone a friend)
 - ❖ If stable and can wait until the next day – avoid carbs, drink lots of water and check BG and ketones
 - ❖ If ketones or symptoms of ketones – Go to the nearest casualty or ER department

4. **Broken injection device:**

- Use insulin syringe to draw insulin out of the pen / cartridge / vial or follow the instructions for “Running out of insulin”

