Generic Name: Glucagon

Brand Name: Glucagen

Class: Pancreatic hormone, insulin antagonist.

Actions: Increases the breakdown of glycogen (if there are stores available in the liver) to glucose and stimulates glucose synthesis. Positive inotropic effects on the heart and decreases peripheral vascular resistance.

Onset: 1 minute

Duration: 60-90 minutes

Indications: Persistent hypoglycemia despite glucose administration, in ability to initiate an IV and administer dextrose. Beta blocker toxicity / overdose.

Contraindications: Hypersensitivity.

Side Effects: Tachycardia, hypotension, nausea/vomiting, urticaria.

Interactions: May increase effect of anticoagulants.

Administration Routes: IM, IV, SQ, IO

Notes: Not the first line drug for hypoglycemia. The hypoglycemic patient will require additional sugar sources, either IV dextrose or through adequate diet.