

# Diabetes Calls



## **Keep in Mind:**

- > Patients with Diabetes often have co-morbidities that complicate your triage. Other considerations: Eye disease; Heart disease; Kidney disease; Stroke
- > DKA can resemble ETOH or drug impairment (don't assume!) Fruity odor to breath, SOB, weakness, slurred speech, confusion.
- > An overdose of Diabetes Medication (oral or insulin) can be a medical emergency- rule out 911 first before asking PMH questions.
- > EVERYTHING can affect blood sugars (ex: Prednisone, Good stress/ bad stress, exercise, missing meals, fatigue, headache
- > Hyperglycemia: **"Hot and dry sugar high"** - frequent urinations; increased thirst; blurred vision; fatigue; headache
- > Hypoglycemia: **"Cold and Clammy- Needs some candy"**- shakiness, weakness, not thinking clearly, headache, trembling, sweating, dizziness, palpitations, and hunger
- > Quick treatment for low blood sugar is: DO NOT OVEREAT! 3 teaspoons of honey, 3-4 glucose tabs, 1 cup milk, 1/2 cup juice of soda (not diet soda). Follow this treatment w/in 15 minutes with protien- cheese and crackers, glass of milk, 1/2 sandwich, etc.

# Diabetes Calls



Action	Name/s	Onset	Peak	Lasts
Rapid- Acting	Lispro/Novolog/ Humalog	5-15 minutes	30-90 minutes	4-6 hours
Short- Acting	Regular, Humulin R, Novolin R	30-60 minutes	2-3 hours	5-8 hours
Intermediate Acting	NPH, Lente, Humulin N, Novolin L	2-4 hours	4-12 hours	10-18 hours
Long Acting	Lantus, Determir, Levemir	2-4 hours	No true peak	18-24 hours
Pre-mixed	Humulin 70/30, Hu- mulin 50/50. Huma- log mix, NovoLog mix	Two peaks	10-16 hours	Depends on mixture