

SFHDiabHD4

Identify hypoglycaemic emergencies and help others manage them



Overview

This standard concerns the activities a person who is not a diabetes specialist should undertake if they are present when an individual with diabetes shows symptoms of hypoglycaemia. The standard indicates what might be expected of a healthcare practitioner who may be working with the individual in another context – such as examining their eyes, or their feet.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 recognise signs of hypoglycaemia and ask the individual how they feel
- P2 respond appropriately to comments made by the individual about how they feel, and offer assistance where required
- P3 offer and provide assistance in a supportive and helpful manner, to enable the person with diabetes to take food, glucose or medication to manage their symptoms
- P4 offer to provide glucose tests to verify the symptoms
- P5 agree an appropriate delay or postponement of the original purpose of your meeting until the symptoms are no longer an issue for the individual
- P6 offer to arrange for further assistance, where appropriate, by contacting other sources of support
- P7 advise the individual to inform their diabetes care team if these symptoms occur regularly
- P8 summon immediate assistance from a competent person where the individual appears to require further help
- P9 remain with the individual and provide support to them, both verbally and by physical presence
- P10 make the immediate vicinity as private and safe as possible to protect the safety and dignity of the individual
- P11 if the individual loses consciousness, position them safely in accordance with basic life support guidelines
- P12 provide information and support when a competent person arrives, to assist with the treatment of the individual
- P13 complete the relevant records accurately and completely following the incident, as required by your organisation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 how to gather information from patients about their health
- K2 the causes of diabetes
- K3 signs and symptoms of diabetes
- K4 how to manage hypoglycaemia
- K5 the impact of nutrition and physical exercise on blood glucose levels
- K6 the effects of, and how to manage, intercurrent illness
- K7 normal and abnormal blood glucose values
- K8 how to monitor glucose levels
- K9 law and good practice guidelines on consent
- K10 the staff member's role in the healthcare team and the role of others
- K11 how to contact competent sources of help
- K12 local referral pathways
- K13 local systems for recording patient information

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Additional Information

External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB6 Assessment and treatment planning

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