Mild Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA) Treatment with Subcutaneous Insulin (353) Version: 18 Gen: 9/29/2025

Location:
Nursing
Fingerstick Blood Glucose (FSBG) Monitoring
Bedside glucose monitoring Every hour, 4, Hours, S, Routine, Blood, Now, then every 1 hour for 4 occurrences, then every 2 hours until BHB < 0.6. If/when DKA protocol is discontinued, continue every 2 hour checks for the next 4 hours after the last dose of insulin is administered.
Nursing
Mild DKA worksheet Until discontinued, Routine
Notify
Notify Provider Until discontinued, Routine, - If glucose is LESS THAN 70 mg/dL AFTER following hypoglycemia protocol If glucose is LESS THAN 120 mg/dL: do not administer any more insulin and notify provider immediately If potassium is LESS Than 3.5 mEq/L and do NOT initiate or continue insulin, treat potassium per DKA/HHS potassium replacement protocol and initiate/resume insulin only once potassium is GREATER THAN 3.5 mEq/CL If potassium is GREATER THAN 5 mEq If at the first 4 hour lab check there is an NO CHANGE or an INCREASE in the BHB from prior value - If blood glucose is LESS THAN 200 mg/dL and BHB <0.6 mmol/L (Resolution of DKA) to consider transition to basal-bolus insulin If at the 8 hour lab check DKA is not resolved (i.e. blood glucose LESS THAN 200 mg/dL and BHB LESS THAN 0.6 mmol/L).
DKA Potassium Replacement
✓ DKA/HHS Potassium Replacement Protocol Until discontinued, S, Routine, Provider will order 1st potassium replacement dose if needed. Then RN to follow the 'DKA/HHS Potassium Replacement Scale Protocol' order set, using 'Per Protocol' for associated orders.
Provider will order 1st potassium replacement dose if needed. Then RN to follow the 'DKA/HHS Potassium Replacement Scale Protocol' order set, using 'Per Protocol' for associated orders.
IV Fluids
Initial IV fluids
✓ Initial IV fluids
lactated ringers bolus 1000 mL, intravenous, once, 1, Occurrences, 60.000 Minutes
☐ Subsequent IV fluids (Rates adjusted by following protocol every two hours based upon BG reading) (Required)
LR and D10W DKA IV Fluids (Required)
✓ lactated Ringer's (LR) infusion for DKA 0 - 250 mL/hr, intravenous, titrated LR Titration:
For: Glucose greater than 299 mg/dL:100% hourly fluid rate Glucose 200 - 299 mg/dL: 50% hourly fluid rate Glucose 150 - 199 mg/dL: 30% hourly fluid rate Glucose 100 - 149 mg/dL: 10% hourly fluid rate Glucose 70 - 99 mg/dL: 0% hourly fluid rate Glucose 70 - 99 mg/dL: 0% hourly fluid rate Glucose less than 70 mg/dL: 0% hourly fluid rate - HOLD Insulin and send blood glucose to lab confirmation.
dextrose 10 % (D10W) infusion for DKA 0 - 250 mL/hr, intravenous, titrated D10W Titration:
For: Glucose greater than 299 mg/dL: 0% hourly fluid rate. Glucose 200 - 299 mg/dL: 50% hourly fluid rate Glucose 150 - 199 mg/dL: 70% hourly fluid rate Glucose 100 - 149 mg/dL: 90% hourly fluid rate Glucose 70 - 99 mg/dL: 100% hourly fluid rate Glucose less than 70 mg/dL: 100% hourly fluid rate - HOLD Insulin and send blood glucose to lab confirmation. Initial Electrolytes Replacement Potassium

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O Potassium Replacement

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<u>Initial</u> Potassium Re	placement		
Potassium Level (mEq/L)	Potassium Chloride Dose	Monitoring	Comments
LESS than 3.0	80 mEq oral or IV	HOLD insulin until potassium >3.5 mEq/L Re-check in 1 hour (IV) or 2 hours (oral), then RN to follow DKA/HHS Potassium Replacement Scale Protocol	Oral route preferred. Give IV if unable to tolerate PO intake. Total dose may be given as a combination of IV/PO.
3.0 – 3.5	60 mEq oral or IV		
3.6 – 4.0	40 mEq oral or IV		
4.1 – 5.0	20 mEq oral or IV		
GREATER than 5.0	No replacement	Repeat potassium level in 2 hours For subsequent replacement and monitoring, RN to follow DKA/HHS Potassium Replacement Scale Protocol	

Potassium LESS t	han or EQUAL to 3.3	
Oral replace	ment - Potassium	
opotas: Hold Parar	sium chloride (K-DUR) CR tablet once, 1, Occurrences naters:	
Hold Parar	sium chloride (KLOR-CON) packet 20, once, 1, Occurrence naters: le contents of 1 packet in 4 ounces of water or other beverage.	
Recheck level 1 h mEq/L, it MUST b potassium is requ	7 - potassium 60 mEq 10 mEq, intravenous, every 1 hour, 6, our after the end of IV administration and reapply orders if ne e administered FIRST prior to giving the insulin. ONCE the pired, it MUST be administered first prior to giving the insulin. Ition should be adjusted according to patient tolerance.	eeded. If the potassium is less than 3.3
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Ocentral IV - potassium 60 mEq 20 mEq, intravenous, every 1 hour, 3, Occurrences For Central Line Only; Recheck level 1 hour after the end of IV administration and reapply orders if needed. If the potassium is less than 3.3 mEq/L, it MUST be administered FIRST prior to giving the insulin. ONCE the potassiur current level is assessed, if potassium is required, it MUST be administered first prior to giving the insulin.Recheck level 1 hour after the end of IV administration and reapply orders if needed.
O Potassium 3.4 - 4.0
Oral replacement - Potassium
potassium chloride (K-DUR) CR tablet once, 1, Occurrences Hold Paramaters:
potassium chloride (KLOR-CON) packet 20, once, 1, Occurrences Hold Paramaters: Dissolve the contents of 1 packet in 4 ounces of water or other beverage
 Peripheral IV - potassium 40 mEq 10 mEq, intravenous, every 1 hour, 4, Occurrences Recheck level 1 hour after the end of IV administration and reapply orders if needed. Rate of administration should be adjusted according to patient tolerance.
 Central IV - potassium 40 mEq 20 mEq, intravenous, every 1 hour, 2, Occurrences For Central Line Only; Recheck level 1 hour after the end of IV administration and reapply orders if needed.
O Potassium 3.4 - 4.0
Oral replacement - Potassium
potassium chloride (K-DUR) CR tablet once, 1, Occurrences Hold Paramaters:
 potassium chloride (KLOR-CON) packet 20, once, 1, Occurrences Hold Paramaters: Dissolve the contents of 1 packet in 4 ounces of water or other beverage
O Peripheral IV - potassium 40 mEq 10 mEq, intravenous, every 1 hour, 4, Occurrences Recheck level 1 hour after the end of IV administration and reapply orders if needed. Rate of administration should be adjusted according to patient tolerance.
Central IV - potassium 40 mEq 20 mEq, intravenous, every 1 hour, 2, Occurrences For Central Line Only; Recheck level 1 hour after the end of IV administration and reapply orders if needed.
O Potassium 4.1 - 5.2
Oral replacement - Potassium
potassium chloride (K-DUR) CR tablet once, 1, Occurrences Hold Paramaters:
 potassium chloride (KLOR-CON) packet 20, once, 1, Occurrences Hold Paramaters: Dissolve the contents of 1 packet in 4 ounces of water or other beverage
Peripheral IV - potassium 20 mEq 10 mEq, intravenous, every 1 hour, 2, Occurrences
Recheck level 1 hour after the end of IV administration and reapply orders if needed. Rate of administration should be adjusted according to patient tolerance.
 Central IV - potassium 20 mEq 20 mEq, intravenous, every 1 hour, 1, Occurrences For Central Line Only; Recheck level 1 hour after the end of IV administration and reapply orders if needed.
O Potassium GREATER than 5.0
 Potassium level Once, 1, Occurrences, Routine, Blood, 3 Sodium Phosphate IV
☐ For phosphorus level less than 2.5 mg/dL 20 mmol, intravenous, once, 1, Occurrences Magnesium Replacement
O Magnesium 1.5-2.0 2 g, intravenous, once, 1, Occurrences
O magnesium 1.0-1.4 3 g, intravenous, once, 1, Occurrences
Insulin Management Protocol not indicated for ESRD patients. Use IV insulin via the DKA/HHS Order Set. Long-Acting Subcutaneous Insulin (Required)

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O insulin glargine (LANTUS) injection - Patient's Home Dose 100, subcutaneous, every 24 hours, S DO NOT HOLD glargine without a prescriber order. If glucose is less than 80 mg/dL, call prescriber for possible dose change.
 insulin glargine (LANTUS) injection 0.3 Units/kg, subcutaneous, every 24 hours, S DO NOT HOLD glargine without a prescriber order. If glucose is less than 80 mg/dL, call prescriber for possible dose change. Fast-Acting Subcutaneous Insulin (Required)
✓ insulin lispro (ADMELOG) injection 0.3 Units/kg, subcutaneous, once, 1, Occurrences X1 dose
✓ insulin lispro (ADMELOG) injection 0.2 Units/kg, subcutaneous, every 4 hours Every 4 hours until Resolution of DKA
Hypoglycemia Management
☐ Hypoglycemia Management for Adult Patients (Required)
✓ Hypoglycemia management - Monitor patient for signs and symptoms of HYPOglycemia and follow standing delegation orders Per unit protocol, Routine, CLICK REFERENCE LINK TO OPEN ALGORITHM:
dextrose 50% intravenous syringe 12.5 g, intravenous, every 20 min PRN, If blood glucose is between 41-69 mg/dL, low blood glucose
For blood glucose between 41-69 mg/dL, give ½ cup juice if patient is able or dextrose 50% intravenous solution 12.5 g (25mL) push ONCE.
Contact the provider and recheck blood glucose in 20 minutes until glucose is greater than 100 mg/dL. DO NOT give further insulin until ordered by a provider
dextrose 50% intravenous syringe 25 g, intravenous, every 20 min PRN, if blood glucose is less than or equal 40 mg/dL, low blood glucose
Recheck bedside glucose every 20 min until glucose greater than 100 mg/dL.
✓ glucagon injection 1 mg, intramuscular, every 15 min PRN, if patient NPO, unable to swallow safely with no IV access., low blood glucose
If glucose remains LESS than 70 mg/dL, after 2 doses of D50 or Glucagon, send serum glucose level STAT. Initiate treatment immediately after lab drawn. Do NOT delay treatment waiting for lab result.
Recheck blood sugar every 20 min until greater than 100 mg/dL. Notify Provider.
dextrose 10 % infusion 40 mL/hr, intravenous, continuous PRN, For bedside glucose LESS than 70 mg/dL For use after administration of dextrose 50% x 2 and subsequent glucose value LESS than 70 mg/dL. Notify Provider, consider transfer to ICU. Check Glucose every hour while on D10 infusion. Titrate infusion by 10 mL per hour to keep glucose between 100 and 140 mg/dL. Notify provider when ANY/ALL of the following occur: -Dextrose 10% infusion is started -If glucose is less than 70 mg/dL while on dextrose 10% infusion -When dextrose 10% infusion rate is increased to greater than 100 mL/hr
Labs
Laboratory - STAT and Repeat
☑ Blood gas, venous STAT, 1, Occurrences, Routine, Blood, 3
Serum ketones (Beta hydroxybutyrate) Now then every 4 hours, 4, Occurrences, Routine, Blood, 3
✓ Lactic acid level - ONE TIME ORDER ONLY STAT, 1, Occurrences, Routine, Blood, 3 SEPSIS PATIENTS:
FOR ALL SEPSIS OR SUSPECTED SEPSIS CHANGE FREQUENCY TO: NOW THEN EVERY 3 HOURS FOR 3 OCCURRENCES
✓ Comprehensive metabolic panel STAT, 1, Occurrences, S, Routine, Blood, 3
✓ Basic metabolic panel Every 4 hours, 3, Occurrences, Routine, Blood, 3
✓ Magnesium Now then every 4 hours, 3, Occurrences, S, Routine, Blood, 3
✓ Phosphorus Now then every 4 hours, 3, Occurrences, S, Routine, Blood, 3
✓ CBC with differential STAT, 1, Occurrences, Routine, Blood, 3
✓ Hemoglobin A1c STAT, 1, Occurrences, Routine, Blood, 3

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✓ Urinalysis screen and microscopy, with reflex to culture STAT, 1, Occurrences, Routine, Urine Specimen Source: Urine Specimen Site: Specimen must be received in the laboratory within 2 hours of collection.
☑ Blood culture, aerobic and anaerobic x 2
✓ Blood culture, aerobic and anaerobic x 2 Most recent Blood Culture results from the past 7 days:
@LASTPROCRESULT(LAB462)@
Blood Culture Best Practices (https://formweb.com/files/houstonmethodist/documents/blood-culture-stewardship.pdf)
✓ Blood culture, aerobic & anaerobic Once, Routine, Blood, Collect before antibiotics given. Blood cultures should be drawn from a peripheral site. If unable to draw both sets from a peripheral site, please call the lab for assistance; an IV line should NEVER be used.
✓ Blood culture, aerobic & anaerobic Once, Routine, Blood, Collect before antibiotics given. Blood cultures should be drawn from a peripheral site. If unable to draw both sets from a peripheral site, please call the lab for assistance; an IV line should NEVER be used.
☐ Amylase STAT, 1, Occurrences, Routine, Blood, 3
Lipase STAT, 1, Occurrences, Routine, Blood, 3
☐ Sputum culture STAT, 1, Occurrences, Routine, Sputum
Creatine kinase, total (CPK) STAT, 1, Occurrences, Routine, Blood, 3
☐ Troponin T STAT, 1, Occurrences, Routine, Blood, 3 Other Diagnostic Tests Diagnostic Tests
✓ Chest 1 Vw Portable 1 time imaging, Routine Is the patient pregnant? Release to patient (Note: If manual release option is selected, result will auto release 5 days from finalization.):
Clinical Indications: ○ Other: Other: DKA Interpreting Physician:
Consults
Consults
✓ Pharmacy Consult for Notification of SQ Insulin DKA Patient Until discontinued, Routine
✓ Consult to Diabetes Education Once, Routine Reason for Consult: Reason for Consult? Note: Do NOT hold discharge for diabetes education

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