



AN RIALTÓIR CÓGAISÍOCHTA
THE PHARMACY REGULATOR

Programme Specification for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Hypoglycaemia and the Supply and Administration of Glucagon Training Course

Version 1.0

March 2016

Part One

Generic Interim Accreditation Standards

[The Generic Interim Accreditation Standards for Formal Programmes of Learning for Pharmacy in Ireland¹](#) apply to educational programmes for the Supply and Administration of Glucagon in Emergency Situations. The generic standards should be referred to when accrediting an education and training programme for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Hypoglycaemia and the Supply and Administration of Glucagon.

Part Two

Indicative Desired Programme Content and Deliverables

The clinical aspects addressed in this specification are intended to refresh and build on the existing knowledge-base and expertise of pharmacists. Specifically the aim of the training is to enable pharmacists to:

- Diagnose and treat hypoglycaemia
- Refresh their knowledge on the properties and usage of glucagon
- Supply and administer glucagon in emergency situations in line with SI 449
- Manage possible side effects or adverse events resulting from administration of glucagon
- Store glucagon in line with the SmPC
- Make appropriate records following supply and administration of glucagon in an emergency

It is recommended that the learning outcomes be achieved through an online format. Pharmacists must meet the relevant training requirements as specified by the PSI Council.

The following indicative learning objectives are a general guide for training providers to an appropriate scope of the curriculum content for this programme.

The learning outcomes have been broadly divided into two key areas:

Key Area 1: Principles of Hypoglycaemia and Supply of Glucagon in both Adults and Children in an emergency situation

The following is a general guide for course providers on the learning objectives that participants would be expected to attain on successful completion of a module in this area:

- Give a brief overview of blood glucose monitoring and *hyperglycaemia*
- Describe how to recognise signs and symptoms of hypoglycaemia
- Outline the differences in mild, moderate and severe hypoglycaemia
- Explain the causes of hypoglycaemia and the identification of high risk groups

¹ Revised version approved by the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland on 26 June 2012.

- Give details of precautionary measures and management of the patient (including long term care)
- Detail the procedure to assess patients in an emergency, giving a diagnosis, and explain the relevant differential diagnoses, including *hyperglycaemia* and the use of blood glucose measurement where appropriate
- Explain the mechanism of action, dose, cautions, side effects and routes of administration of glucagon products available
- Describe the treatment of severe hypoglycaemia (in adults and children) with glucagon according to relevant national policy, guidelines and agencies
- Briefly describe, for both adults and children, other treatments of hypoglycaemia and their use in a mild to moderate hypoglycaemic event (i.e. when the patient can still swallow)
- Identify the key areas for the provision of information to patients on the long term management of diabetes, signs and symptoms of hypoglycaemia and the treatment of this with glucagon
- Explain the principles around the safe supply of glucagon including safe storage and disposal, exclusion criteria, the management of excluded patients and precautions for supply
- Describe the methods for assessment of the patient
- Give details of measures to ensure patient comfort and safety
- Summarise the overall management of the emergency situation
- Describe how to correctly reconstitute and administer glucagon in accordance with the SmPC, including selecting the correct dose

Key Area 2: Post-injection and Follow up

The following is a general guide for course providers on the learning objectives that participants would be expected to attain on successful completion of a module in this area:

- Describe care post administration, including appropriate positioning of patient and monitoring for signs of improvement or deterioration
- Briefly explain the steps following administration of glucagon injection, details to be explained to the patient including possible side effects and need to contact their doctor; hospital management, blood tests, referral to a diabetes specialist
- Describe the process of referral of the patient to another regulated health professional for additional care as needed
- Describe the system in place to record/document the diagnosis and treatment of hypoglycaemia and the supply and administration of glucagon in line with SI 449/2015
- Specify the requirement to notify other health providers and other appropriate agencies as required (including information on adverse drug reactions) Reflect on the delivery of the service and obtain feedback to ensure continuous quality improvement