My Diabetes Passport: Planning for Surgery

Referral Preoperative care Hospital admission Discharge

Name: ............................................................................................................................

Proposed date of operation: .........................................................................................

This booklet has been provided for you by the Ipswich Hospital Diabetes Team

Diabetes and Endocrine Centre
Ipswich Hospital
Tel: 01473 704180

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Your perioperative diabetes passport

You have been given this booklet because you have diabetes and are having a planned operation.

‘Perioperative’ describes the journey you will take before, during and after your operation.

It has been shown that patients whose diabetes is well controlled before their operation are less likely to have complications and more likely to be discharged home earlier.

The aim of this perioperative diabetes passport is to help you and the healthcare professionals looking after you ensure that you are in the best possible condition for surgery and to make sure you receive the most appropriate care during your inpatient stay.

You may have noticed that the pages in this diabetes passport are different colours.

The yellow pages are for you to fill out with information about you that will be helpful to your care.

The blue are information sheets for you to read.

The green are for your healthcare professionals to fill in.

Please bring this diabetes passport to all appointments you have with a healthcare professional, at both the hospital and at your GP surgery.

Key points

- Good control before surgery reduces complications.
- Keep this booklet with you during your inpatient stay.
My details

About you...

Name: .................................................................................................................................
I like to be called: ....................................................................................................................
Date of birth: ..........................................................................................................................
NHS number: ...........................................................................................................................
Address: ..................................................................................................................................
Home telephone number: ...........................................................................................................
Mobile number: ........................................................................................................................

About your GP surgery...

Usual/Registered GP: ..............................................................................................................
Address: ..................................................................................................................................
Telephone number: ....................................................................................................................

Your next of kin’s contact details...

Name: ......................................................................................................................................
Address: ..................................................................................................................................
Home telephone number: ...........................................................................................................
Mobile number: ........................................................................................................................
Type of diabetes

Type 1  ☐
Type 2  ☐
Other  ☐  .................................................................

Filled in by: .................................................................
Date: .................................................................
# My diabetes

Place of usual care (for example, GP / Hospital team):

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## Diabetes medication:
(We will have information on the medicines you normally take but please confirm your diabetic medicine.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medication Chart</th>
<th>Medication name (Insulin / Tablet)</th>
<th>Dose / Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Evening Meal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedtime</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Are you normally on insulin?  Yes ☐  No ☐

What is the name of the insulin you use?  

What devices do you use?

- Pen and cartridge ☐  Pump ☐  
- Disposable pen ☐  Needle syringe ☐  Innolet ☐
Where are your normal injection sites? .................................................................

Who normally manages your diabetes medication?
(Tick all that apply.)

Self ☐  Relative ☐  Carer ☐  Dosset box ☐

Hypos

Do you have hypos?  Yes ☐  No ☐

Approximately how many hypos a week do you have?  .........................

Do you normally get warning symptoms before you have a hypo?

Yes ☐  No ☐

What are the things that people could do to support you with your diabetes whilst you are in hospital?

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Other medical history

These are the other medical conditions I have:

... ...

Swallowing difficulties:   Yes ☐   No ☐

History of heart disease / lung disease / kidney disease?   Yes ☐   No ☐

Details:

... ...

... ...

... ...

... ...
Eating and drinking

I normally eat at the following times:

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...........................................................................................................................................................................
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Do you have any specific dietary requirements, such as vegetarian / allergies?

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Foods I dislike include:

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My choices of snacks include:

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You should be offered a snack before bed if you are on insulin or certain other diabetes medications, but you may also prefer to bring your own supply of snacks into hospital.

Also please bring in any treatments you may prefer to use for hypo treatment, such as jelly babies.
Preoperative care...
Blood glucose control

High blood glucose can increase the risk of infections and lead to less favourable outcomes following surgery. Good blood glucose control has also been shown to improve healing after surgery.

HbA1c is a blood test that gives an overall picture of your blood glucose levels over the past three months.

**We recommend that your HbA1c should be 8.5% (69 mmol/mol) or less before your operation – the lower, the better.**

For certain operations, a lower target HbA1c may be required. Your HbA1c will be tested at your pre-operative assessment and nurses will be able to advise you on the result.
Body mass index = weight [kgs] ÷ (height [m])²

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Weight (kg)</th>
<th>Height (cm)</th>
<th>BMI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Your weight in kilograms

Your height in feet and inches

Your height in centimetres

Your weight in stones
Blood pressure readings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>BP reading</th>
<th>Taken by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Ideally your BP should be within the green section – 120 / 80 or lower. However, for some operations a higher BP reading may be acceptable.
Referrals

Following on from your pre-op assessment you have been referred:

To an anaesthetist  □
To LiveWell Suffolk  □
Back to your GP  □
To the Diabetes team  □
Other  □ .................................................................

The reasons for this referral are:

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You have also been given a copy of the following management of medications before surgery leaflet(s):

Leaflet 1 – Diet-controlled diabetes  □
Leaflet 2 – Tablet-controlled diabetes  □
Leaflet 3 – GLP1 injections  □
Leaflet 4 – Insulin treated diabetes  □
What to do with your medication before surgery

**Insulin treated diabetes**

On the day of your surgery, from 6 am onwards, you should **monitor your blood glucose every two hours** prior to your arrival at hospital and bring your record with you. If you are driving, you should also check your blood glucose just before starting your car and drive only if your blood glucose is more than 5 mmol / L.

The following table will tell you what to do with your insulin. **If you are taking more than one type of insulin, please follow the instructions for each.** If you are having bowel surgery the instructions above may differ. Please contact your diabetes team for further support.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of insulin</th>
<th>Day prior to surgery</th>
<th>Day of surgery if your operation is in the morning</th>
<th>Day of surgery if your operation is in the afternoon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biphasic mixed insulins / Twice daily</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novomix 30, Humulin M3, Humalog Mix 25, Humalog Mix 50, Insuman Comb 25, Insuman Comb 50</td>
<td>Take your usual dose</td>
<td>a) Take half your usual morning dose</td>
<td>a) Take half your usual morning dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>b) Take your usual evening dose</td>
<td>b) Take your usual evening dose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Rapid Insulins: Actrapid, Humulin S, Insuman Rapid, Novorapid, Fiasp, Humalog, Apidra | Take your usual doses | a) Skip morning dose. *If also on long-acting, reduce your dose by 20% | a) Take your usual morning dose. *If also on long-acting, reduce your dose by 20% |
|                                                                                     |                      | b) Take usual lunch dose if eating and drinking | b) Omit the lunchtime dose |
|                                                                                     |                      | c) Take usual evening dose if eating and drinking. *If also on long-acting, take your usual dose in the evening | c) Take usual evening dose if eating and drinking. *If also on long-acting, take your usual dose in the evening |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basal Insulins: Lantus, Levemir, Insulatard, Humulin I, Insuman Basal, Abasaglar, Toujeo, Tresiba</th>
<th>If taken in the morning:</th>
<th>If taken in the evening:</th>
<th>If taken twice daily:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduce your dose by 20%</td>
<td>Reduce your dose by 20%</td>
<td>Reduce your dose by 20%</td>
<td>Reduce your morning dose by 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce your dose by 20%</td>
<td>Take your usual dose</td>
<td>Take your usual dose</td>
<td>Reduce your morning dose by 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce your dose by 20%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reduce your morning dose by 20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What to do with your medication before surgery

**Tablet or GLP-1 injections**

The following table will tell you what to do with your diabetes tablets / injections. If you are taking more than one, please follow the instructions for each of them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of tablet</th>
<th>If your operation is in the morning</th>
<th>If your operation is in the afternoon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acarbose</td>
<td>Skip morning dose</td>
<td>Take usual morning dose with breakfast and omit lunchtime dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repaglinide, Nateglinide</td>
<td>Skip morning dose</td>
<td>Take usual morning dose with breakfast and omit lunchtime dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metformin (Sukkarto)</td>
<td>Take as usual unless specifically advised not to</td>
<td>Take as usual unless specifically advised not to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gliclazide, Glibenclamide, Glipizide, Glimepiride, Gliquidone</td>
<td>Skip morning dose</td>
<td>Skip morning dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pioglitazone</td>
<td>Take as usual</td>
<td>Take as usual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sitagliptin, Saxagliptin, Vildagliptin, Alogliptin, Linagliptin</td>
<td>Take as usual</td>
<td>Take as usual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dapagliflozin, Canagliflozin, Empagliflozin</td>
<td>Skip morning dose and omit until post surgery and eating and drinking normally for 48 hours</td>
<td>Skip morning dose and omit until post surgery and eating and drinking normally for 48 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GLP-1 injections or tablets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of tablet</th>
<th>If your operation is in the morning</th>
<th>If your operation is in the afternoon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exenatide, Liraglutide, Exenatide SR, Lixisenatide</td>
<td>Take as usual</td>
<td>Take as usual</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fasting advice

Please follow the instructions on this page regarding fasting to prepare for your operation:

- If your operation is scheduled for a **morning list** do not eat any food after 12 midnight.
  
  You can drink clear fluids such as black tea, black coffee, squash or water up until 06.30 am. Milk or fruit juices are not permitted.

- If your operation is scheduled for an **afternoon list** do not eat anything after a light breakfast which needs to be eaten before 07.00 am.
  
  You can drink clear fluids such as black tea, black coffee, squash or water up until 11.30 am. Milk or fruit juices are not permitted.

Other specific fasting information:

If you begin to feel that you are becoming ‘hypo’ you could have a drink of squash which contains sugar

Department: ................................................................................................................

Telephone contact: ..................................................................................................
What to do if you are sent an afternoon appointment for your operation

Many considerations determine the order of operating lists. One of the most important goals in patients with diabetes who are having surgery is to minimise the starvation / fasting time so that normal diet and normal medication can be resumed as early as possible.

- If you have type 1 diabetes it is **normally recommended** that you have your surgery in the morning.
- If you are type 2 then it is **not normally recommended** that you have your surgery in the evening.

If, when you receive your appointment letter, your procedure is not at the recommended time slot, please contact:

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Telephone contact: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
Hospital admission...
What to bring into hospital with you

- Your diabetes medication.
- A supply of insulin needles (if you take insulin). The needles used in hospital are for use of healthcare professionals and may not be the same as you have at home.
- Any other normal medication you take.
- Blood glucose equipment (if you normally monitor your own blood glucose we encourage you to continue to do so whilst in hospital but we may also test your levels).
- Your normal hypo treatments, such as glucose drink/jelly babies.
- A few snacks.
Diabetes self care

Blood glucose testing
We believe it important that you are able to manage your own diabetes in hospital if you are well enough and capable of doing so. You are allowed to do your own blood glucose tests whenever you like. However, to promote safe care, we will also undertake blood tests using our very accurate precision meters. These are linked by wi-fi to a computer which allows the diabetes inpatient specialist nurses to detect patients who are frequently experiencing out-of-range glucose results.

Insulin administration and dose adjustment
You may also be able to self-inject and decide on your own insulin dose but please agree this with the ward nurse so that it can be documented on your treatment record. If you are having difficulties please ask to see a member of the diabetes team. You should then be able to keep your insulin on you, but at times it maybe necessary for your insulin to be locked away.

In general you should aim for blood glucose values of between 5 mmol/L and 12 mmol/L while in hospital, except at bedtime when the target range is a little higher: between 7 mmol/L and 12 mmol/L. Don’t worry if an occasional reading is outside these ranges but if you would like advice please ask your ward nurse to contact the specialist diabetes team.
Inpatient diabetes nurse team

Contact number: 01473 712233 or bleep 825.

Whilst staying in Ipswich Hospital you may be seen by a member of the inpatient diabetes nurse team.

The team is available to provide support and management for all inpatients who have diabetes.

If you would like to speak to a member of the team during your admission to hospital, please let your ward nurse or doctor know so they can arrange this for you. Alternatively, you can contact the Diabetes team directly on the number above. The team is available Monday – Friday, 8 am – 4 pm and weekends 8 am – 12 noon.
Inpatient diabetes specialist support team

Today you were seen by ................................................................. from the diabetes inpatient support team, who has given you the following advice:

Changes to your medications:

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What to do next:

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Further appointments:

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Blood glucose control in hospital

When in hospital it is not uncommon to experience changes in blood glucose control, including high glucose levels.

There are a variety of reasons for this including:

- changed medication and meal times
- altered portion sizes
- being less active
- new medications such as steroids
- periods of fasting such as before and after surgery
- the stress of being unwell
- infection.

Maintaining good control can be difficult. In hospital your targets may change for safety reasons. However, provided that your blood glucose is kept within reasonable limits, your recovery will be quicker. For this reason, if your blood glucose is raised above 17 you may need extra treatment, including insulin, even if you normally control your diabetes by tablet or diet alone.

Please ask a member of staff on the ward if you have any queries or concerns about your blood glucose levels.
Hypoglycaemia (‘Hypos’)

Unless you are treated with insulin or gliclazide (or a similar tablet from the same class) or given either of these treatments for the first time in hospital this section should not be relevant to you.

Hypoglycaemia, also known as a ‘hypo’ is when your blood sugar (glucose) level falls too low. Any blood glucose below 4.0 mmol / L should be treated.

Sadly it is not unusual for people with diabetes treated with insulin or gliclazide to become hypoglycaemic in hospital. There are many reasons for this, including: changes in people’s daily routine, in particular eating times in hospital; and interactions between insulin and necessary medications. At Ipswich Hospital we will do our best to prevent you becoming hypoglycaemic during your inpatient stay and this is partly why we have produced this booklet.

A ‘hypo’ can occur very quickly and, if severe, it can give rise to confusion or impaired consciousness. However, in most people treatment of early symptoms will prevent severe hypoglycaemia. Be on the lookout for the following early symptoms. They may differ from person to person but include:

**Blurred vision, excessive sweating, anxiety or agitation, tingling in mouth or fingers, a fast or heavy heartbeat, odd behaviour (normally recognised by others), sudden difficulty with concentration, and slurred speech.**

If you experience any of the above symptoms notify a member of staff as soon as possible so that your blood sugar can be tested and, if it is low, preventative treatment can be given.
Preventing night time hypos in hospital

Bedtime snack
To reduce the frequency of overnight hypoglycaemia, those treated with insulin or gliclazide will be prescribed and offered a snack before bed. Although a bed-time snack may not be your usual practice we would recommend this during your stay.

Medication adjustment
For some people we may reduce their basal or evening insulin dose and, again, for some people on gliclazide the evening dose may be reduced.

If you are adjusting your own insulin doses in hospital please bear in mind the different circumstances of being in hospital and adjust your insulin accordingly. The first priority is to avoid hypoglycaemia, but it is also important to avoid excessively high blood glucose levels.
How will my hypo be treated in hospital?

If you experience a hypo in hospital you will be treated with a drink of glucose powder dissolved in water. However, many patients prefer to bring in their own hypo treatments. These could be:

- 150–200 ml of concentrated orange juice
- 4–5 GlucoTabs® or 5–6 Dextrose® tablets
- 4 jelly babies.

If you have a hypo, treat it with some rapid-acting carbohydrate as above, let the ward sister know and test your blood glucose 10 – 15 minutes later. If it is still below 4.0 mmol / L, you should repeat the rapid-acting carbohydrate.

Don’t forget you should also follow this treatment with a more long-acting source of carbohydrate such as a banana, cereal bar or sandwich to prevent hypoglycaemia recurring several hours later.

If you are experiencing regular hypos whilst in hospital please ask your staff nurse to refer you to the specialist diabetes team.
Eating for safe glucose control in hospital

Three key messages for patients, relatives, medical, nursing and catering staff.

When you are able to eat and drink normally food choice and meal size must not be restricted.

Hypoglycaemia in hospital is very common and must be prevented. For this reason food choices should not be restricted.

**People with diabetes should eat what they eat at home.**

The size of the meal should be as close to that eaten at home even if this is not what healthcare professionals would consider the ideal diabetes diet. This is how the patient normally manages so restricting their food without adjusting their treatment will result in hypoglycaemia. The Diabetes team are there to help with adjusting medications during admission if required.

**Bedtime snacks are to be encouraged**

Because of the longer gaps between meals than occurs at home, snacks are available between meals for those receiving insulin or treated with gliclazide. This is especially so at bedtime as the evening meal is early in hospital there can be up to 15 hours before breakfast!
**IV infusions**

**What is an intravenous (IV) insulin infusion?**

This is a way of giving insulin directly into the bloodstream in order to establish and maintain good control of your blood glucose. This is usually achieved using a pump which drives a syringe of insulin connected to a small cannula (slim plastic tube) inserted into a vein in the arm. Insulin acts very rapidly when given directly into the bloodstream. By varying the rate of the insulin infusion very good diabetes control can be achieved when linked to hourly or two-hourly finger-stick blood glucose measurements.

We realise this will result in a disturbed night but it is important to have these regular blood glucose checks for the infusion to be used safely. The insulin infusion will be accompanied by a drip containing a glucose solution to keep you fed. If you are on a background (also called basal) insulin, this will usually be continued while you are on the insulin infusion but other insulins will be stopped.

**Who will require an insulin IV infusion?**

If you will not be eating or drinking for a prolonged period, for example if you are having a major operation or if you become too ill to eat or drink sufficiently, then an intravenous insulin infusion is the best way to maintain good diabetes control.

**How long will I be on the insulin IV infusion?**

As soon as you are able to eat and drink normally the infusion should be discontinued – if not, ask why not. The sooner you are back on your usual treatment the better.
What to do if the insulin IV infusion or glucose drip stops?

If the insulin infusion is stopped, the blood glucose can rise very rapidly; this is one reason why frequent blood glucose tests are required. The infusion may stop because it becomes accidently disconnected, is switched off and not switched back on again (for example when you are having a scan), or if the cannula becomes blocked or displaced. If you notice any of these occurring, let your nurse know straight away so that it can be immediately restarted.

If the glucose drip stops then your blood glucose could drop too low causing hypoglycaemia. Therefore if you notice a problem with the glucose drip again, let your nurse know straight away so that it can be immediately restarted.

Is there anything I should know about restarting my usual treatment?

If you are on tablets these will be restarted.

If you are already on insulin it is important that the infusion is continued for the first 30–60 minutes after your first insulin injection. This is because after the infusion is stopped, there will rapidly be no insulin in your system; 30–60 minutes gives enough time for the subcutaneously injected insulin to get into the bloodstream from the injection site. If your background insulin has not been continued while you are on the insulin infusion, this must be given before the infusion is stopped. Switching back to the subcutaneous insulin should ideally be at a meal time, after short-acting insulin or mixed insulin has been given. This switch should not occur at bedtime when there is less observation by staff.
Self-management of your insulin pump (continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion [CSII]) during your hospital admission

Insulin pumps may be used by people with type 1 diabetes to optimise blood glucose control. Pump users undergo detailed education and training in the use of the pump by the diabetes specialist team and are very familiar with self-management even during illness.

Insulin pumps use rapid- or short-acting insulin which is infused continuously subcutaneously at a pre-programmed rate set by the patient, often with the advice of the diabetes specialist team. Bolus doses are then taken for each meal. If the pump is discontinued for any reason without an alternative provision of insulin, diabetic ketoacidosis is likely to develop within a short space of time because there is no reservoir of long-acting insulin.

For this reason an insulin pump should never be discontinued without immediate substitution of rapid-acting insulin via an alternative administration route.
Managing your pump for procedures requiring a short period of starvation

General principles

• Continuous infusion of subcutaneous insulin via a pump is designed to maintain a stable blood glucose level during the fasting state.

• You should be allowed to self-manage if you are well enough to do so. If the procedure requires you to be nil by mouth for a limited period (no more than one missed meal) you should still be able to manage your diabetes with a pump.

• However, if you are unable to self-manage because of your illness the pump will be discontinued and a variable rate intravenous insulin infusion (see section on variable rate intravenous insulin infusion) will be started immediately.

• The diabetes specialist team should be notified of all patients in hospital receiving subcutaneous insulin pump treatment, with the exception of day surgery patients. If you are on a pump, please ask to speak to a member of the diabetes team.

• If your insulin pump is discontinued it should be stored safely until you are ready to go back on the pump. Please inform the nursing team where it is stored as this should be documented.

• When you restart your insulin pump, the intravenous insulin infusion should not be discontinued until a mealtime bolus dose of insulin has been given via the pump.
Foot champions to protect your feet

Some people with diabetes, when in hospital, are at high risk of developing sores and pressure ulcers on their feet and particularly on their heels. These can be prevented by identifying those at risk and providing preventative foot care. At Ipswich Hospital we have a successful prevention programme that we wish to make you aware of. Each ward has a foot champion who leads this.

You should expect to have your feet examined when you are admitted, to determine whether you are at increased risk of developing foot problems in hospital. Your nurse or healthcare assistant will undertake a very simple examination consisting of a visual foot inspection and a test of your ability to feel touch on the tips of your toes. This is called the Ipswich Touch Test. If you have not had your feet examined, please remind the nursing staff or ask to speak to the foot champion.

You will also have your heels inspected daily to detect any early skin changes which, if addressed, can prevent the development of a heel ulcer. If you are found to be at increased risk, your feet will be elevated off the mattress to reduce pressure on your heels and you will have your feet moisturised twice a day.

Ask the nurse what he or she has found, and have a look at the Diabetes DICE Chart at the end of your bed to see that this has been documented as well as your daily heel checks.
Discharge...
Sick day rules for people with diabetes

What should I do if I am unwell after my operation?

• **NEVER** stop taking your insulin – illness usually increases your body’s need for insulin.

• If you are vomiting, have diarrhoea or become dehydrated **STOP** taking metformin and SGLT2 inhibitors (dapagliflozin, canagliflozin and empagliflozin, ertugliflozin).

• **TEST** your blood sugars at least four times a day, if you have the equipment to do so.

• **If you are unable to test your blood sugar you should inform your GP that you are unwell and ask that your blood sugar be checked.**

• **DRINK** at least 100 ml of water/sugar free fluid every hour – at least 2.5 litres a day.

• **EAT** as normally as you can. If you cannot eat or if you have a smaller appetite than normal, replace solid food during illness with one of the following:
  - 2 cups of milk
  - 200 ml carton of fruit juice
  - 150–200 ml of non-diet fizzy drink
  - 1 scoop of ice cream.

• Even if you are eating less than usual, being unwell usually makes your blood glucose rise.

• Symptoms of high blood glucose include:
  - thirst
  - passing more urine than usual
  - tiredness.

Not all illnesses have this effect and in some patients rather than rising the blood glucose level may fall when they are not eating. In this circumstance patients on gliclazide/glimepiride tablets or insulin may need to reduce their dose of diabetes medication.
Extra instructions for people with Type 1 diabetes

- If you are unwell and have a high blood glucose (12 mmol / L) you should follow the ‘sick day rules’ overleaf – they are also available online at trend-uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/A5_T1Illness_TREND_FINAL.pdf
- The golden rule is to NEVER stop insulin even if you are not eating.
- You should test regularly to track the changes in blood sugar.
- TEST your urine or blood for KETONES every two hours.
- You will need more insulin if your urine KETONES are ++2 or +++3 (or for those testing with a blood ketone meter, the level is 1.5 mmol / L or more). In this case contact your diabetes care provider.

When should I call my diabetes care provider or GP?

- If you have continuous diarrhoea and vomiting and/or a high fever.
- If you are UNABLE to keep food down for four hours or more.
- If you become DROWSY and BREATHLESS.
- HIGH blood glucose levels with symptoms of illness (if above 15 mmol/L you may need more insulin).

OUTSIDE NORMAL WORKING HOURS consult your local out-of-hours service or go to your local hospital’s A&E department.
Discharge checklist (for your information)

These pages contain an example of what should be reviewed before you leave hospital. Have a look to see if anything has been overlooked.

**ALL RED BOXES MUST BE TICKED – OTHERWISE UNSAFE DISCHARGE – RISK OF READMISSION**

### INSULIN AND / OR GLICLAZIDE TREATED PATIENTS

#### Hypoglycaemia avoidance

- Confirm that the patient/family member/carer has been informed of the potential for hypoglycaemia
- Confirm that the patient / family member / carer knows how to recognise and treat hypoglycaemia (give patient leaflet on ‘hypoglycaemia’ if necessary)
- Confirm that the patient has access at home to usual hypoglycaemic treatments (eg fruit juice)

### INSULIN TREATED PATIENTS

#### Insulin administration

- Confirm that the patient is competent at injecting or, if not, arrangements are in place for community (district) nurse / carer to administer

#### Insulin dose and timing

- Confirm that the patient / family member / carer has written instructions on insulin doses and correct timings

#### Treatment supplies

- Confirm the supplies listed below have been provided

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All patients on insulin therapy:</th>
<th>Patients new-to-insulin therapy must also be provided with:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vials</td>
<td>Blood glucose meter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syringe</td>
<td>Insulin passport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preloaded pen</td>
<td>Blood glucose strips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needles</td>
<td>Sick Day Rules leaflet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pen device</td>
<td>Lancets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insulin passport</td>
<td>Sharps box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cartridges</td>
<td>Monitoring diary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### PATIENTS WITH DIABETIC FOOT DISEASE

- Confirm diabetic foot team are aware of discharge
- Confirm patient has been informed if antibiotics need to be re-prescribed
- Confirm a referral to practice nurse / community team for dressings has been made
- Confirm 3 days’ supply of dressings have been given
- Confirm Foot Clinic follow-up appointment (extension 6912) has been arranged

### ALL PATIENTS WITH DIABETES – FOLLOW-UP ARRANGEMENTS AS APPROPRIATE TO BE MADE AS BELOW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>wks / mths</th>
<th>GP (Request on electronic discharge summary)</th>
<th>Diabetes Centre (Telephone extension 6180 and request on electronic discharge summary)</th>
<th>Community nurse (Refer electronically and / or by telephone)</th>
<th>Diabetes Foot Clinic (Telephone extension 6912 and request on electronic discharge summary)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>..........................</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Assessed by:

Signature: ........................................................................................................................................

Name (PRINT): ................................................................................................................................

Designation: ................................................. Date: ............................ /

........................... / ............... Time: ............. : ......
Discharge summary

Please insert a copy of the patient’s discharge summary.
Please use this space to jot down any questions you may want to ask during the ward round...

Issued by:
East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust
Ipswich Hospital, Heath Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 5PD
Hospital switchboard: 01473 712233 www.esneft.nhs.uk

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