Notes from your diabetes team:

#### References:

Global IDF/ISPAD guideline for diabetes in childhood and adolescence

Diabetic ketoacidosis and hyperglycemic hyperosmolar state

https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/diabetic-ketoacidosis/

Blood ketones: Measurement, Interpretation, Limitations, and Utility in the Management of Diabetic Ketoacidosis. Dhatariya K., et al., Rev Diabet Stud. 2016 Winter; 13[4]:217-225.

Diabetic Ketoacidosis: Risk Factors and Management Strategies, Umpierrez, G.E. & Kitabchi, A.E. Mol Diag Ther (2003) 2:95.





Call Nipro Customer Service for more information on products or for help in switching patients to the 4SURE portfolio.

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Nipro Diabetes Care is a global supplier of high quality products for people living with type 1 or type 2 diabetes.

Our portfolio of meters, test strips, pen needles, and lancets capture the essentials of self-testing in the most simple, accurate, and accessible form. This way we ensure the best life possible!

BECAUSE EVERY LIFE DESERVES AFFORDABLE CARE





## **DIABETIC KETOACIDOSIS**

HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND PREVENT













# What is diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA)?

When we eat carbohydrates, they are broken down by our bodies, breaking down of carbohydrates results in glucose, which is then released into our bloodstream. Glucose is our principle source of energy, but to free the energy, glucose must be processed within our cells. Insulin acts as the key, allowing glucose to enter our cells.

When our cells are lacking glucose (e.g. because of an insulin deficiency), our body will start burning fat as an alternative source of energy. The breakdown of fat produces ketones. In people living with diabetes, high levels of ketones in the blood can lead to a dangerous condition known as diabetic ketoacidosis.

This leaflet is designed to help you recognize and prevent DKA.

#### Risk factors of DKA

For persons living with Type 1 diabetes (or Type 2 diabetes in exceptional cases):

- Fasting
- Prolonged exercise
- Pregnancy
- Gastroenteritis
- Having an infection, injury, or surgery
- Alcohol intoxication
- Illegal drug use

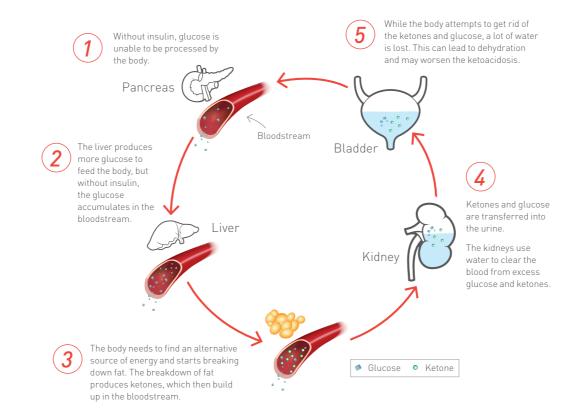
### **Recognizing DKA symptoms**

- Dry mouth, strong thirst
- Urinating more than usual
- Deep breathing, with a fruity smell/odor
- Feeling nauseas, vomiting, and/or stomach pains
- Feeling confused, being sleepy, and/or loss of consciousness

If you experience any of the above symptoms, contact your diabetes team immediately.

# Recognizing higher-risk situations

- During illness with fever and/or vomiting
- When blood glucose values rise above 14 mmol/L (250 mg/dL)
- When you are frequently urinating and having elevated blood glucose values (especially if combined with abdominal pains and rapid breathing)
- Days where you do not manage to control your blood glucose and you have uncontrolled hyperglycemia



# **How to prevent DKA**

Since DKA occurs when an overabundance of ketones circulate in the body, prevention is a matter of knowing what to look for.

Step 1: recognize DKA symptoms and higher-risk situations

### Step 2: monitor your...

**Blood glucose levels** (also known as blood glucose), as advised by your diabetes team

AND

**Ketone levels** (also known as  $\beta$ -ketone), when experiencing DKA symptoms or in higher-risk situations

### Understanding your blood β-ketone levels

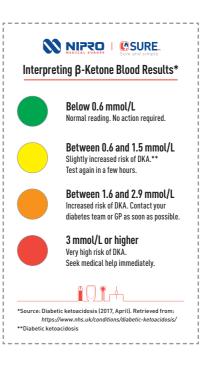
If you experience any of DKA symptoms or if you encounter any higherrisk situations described above:

• Test your blood glucose levels frequently (every 2-4 hours)

and

Test your β-ketone levels

This color chart will help you to interpret your β-ketone test result.\*





#### Other considerations

- It is important to stay hydrated (especially when you are ill), so remember to drink plenty of unsweetened fluids.
- Do not stop taking your insulin under any circumstances. It is possible that you may need more insulin than you would normally administer.
- If you are worried or if you have any questions, please contact your GP, practice nurse, or diabetes team.