

Intravenous Insulin Infusion

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Intravenous Insulin Infusion

Your doctor wants you to have continuous intravenous (IV) insulin infusion to help control your blood sugar while you are in the hospital. You also may hear this called IV insulin.

If you are diabetic or pre-diabetic, blood sugars can go up when you are under emotional or physical stress, such as the stress of major surgery, illness or infection. While this is normal, research tells us that keeping blood sugars under control while you are in the hospital can help promote healing, prevent infection and improve your outcome.

IV insulin is the best way for us to control your blood sugar in the hospital, especially when you are unable to eat or drink. Your usual insulin injections and diabetes medications that you take by mouth may not safely or reliably control your blood sugar at this time.

What to expect

While you are getting IV insulin, the nursing staff will need to check your blood sugars a lot, often hourly. This is so that they can make changes to the insulin rate to keep your blood sugar in a certain range. Blood sugars vary greatly throughout the day and the staff needs to carefully maintain the insulin levels to keep your blood sugar level where it should be.

We are sorry for the discomfort that you may experience with the frequent finger stick blood tests, but your overall health and recovery is very important to us. When you are ready, your doctor will make changes to your diabetes medicine so that you don't need to stay on the IV insulin any longer than necessary.