

# Read this important information about SLIDING SCALE

Some individuals with diabetes may have sliding scale insulin orders. Sliding scale insulin is when the prescriber orders a specific amount of insulin to be given based on a capillary blood glucose level (CBG). CBG testing, for sliding scale insulin, is done prior to administering insulin.

To control an individual's diabetes, they may have an order for sliding scale insulin. Sliding scale insulin may be used alone, with a fixed amount of insulin, or with an order for an oral diabetic medication.

Orders for sliding scale need to be clear and include all the following parameters (special instructions):

- Identify when to hold the sliding scale insulin. It should list a specific CBG level, such as hold if the CBG level is between 81-150. Must also identify when to call the prescriber such as if the CBG level is 80 or less.
- Identify when to call the prescriber for both low and high CBGs
- When to contact the delegating RN. The delegating RN must include in the instructions when to call them. Subcutaneous injections are considered a nursing procedure requiring RN delegation.
- There must be instructions on what to do if the resident is ill or not eating. The delegating RN can address this information in the delegation instructions for insulin administration.

Sliding scale ranges cannot have overlapping ranges. For example, if one range is 81-149 the next range cannot start with 149, it must be 150.



If the prescriber makes changes to the insulin orders any time after you have been delegated, you must contact the delegating RN *immediately*. It is the delegating RNs responsibility to review the new orders and determine if there is a need for additional parameters or if the new order is more complex than is safe to delegate.

## Example of overlapping ranges

Amount of Insulin	CBG Range
<80	Notify the prescriber
81-150	No insulin
150-200	Give 4 units    150 over laps with 81-150
200-250	Give 6 units    200 over laps with 150-200

## Example of non-overlapping ranges

Amount of Insulin	CBG Range
<80	Notify the prescriber
81-149	No insulin
150-199	Give 4 units
200-250	Give 6 units

For additional information on safe medication practices go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/ODHS-SafeMed>



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