

# 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: Sliding scale insulin order only; may have multiple insulins with fixed amounts and sliding scale insulin; or oral diabetic medications and sliding scale.

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

- Identify when to hold the sliding scale with specific CBG level indicated such as hold if CBG 81–150;
- 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.

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.

- 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. See examples below;

For example, if one range is 81–149 the next range cannot start with 149, it must be 150.

## 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: <http://tinyurl.com/DHS-SafeMeds>

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