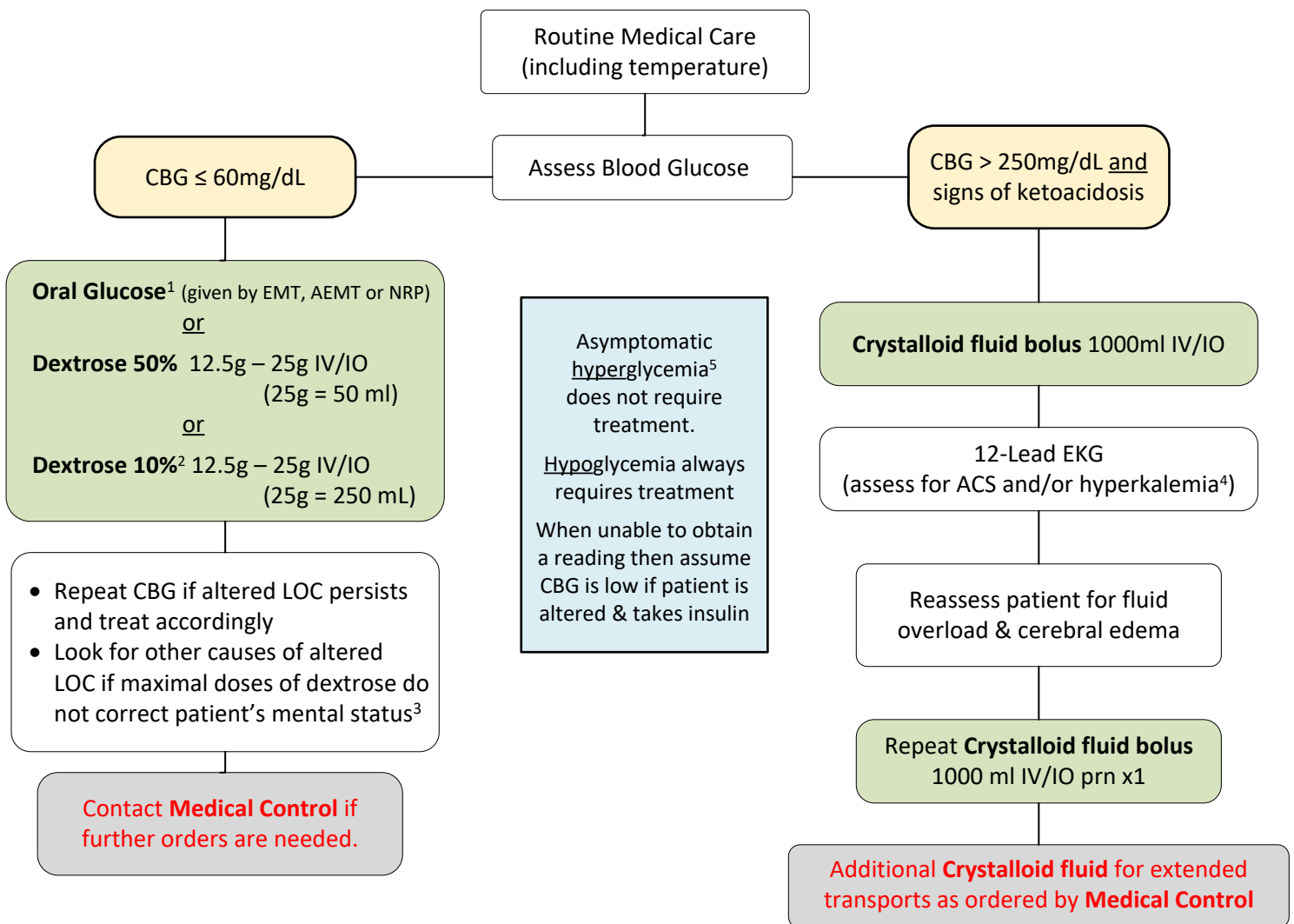


Diabetic Emergency



Signs of Ketoacidosis

- Ill appearance
- Headache or double vision
- Dyspnea
- Altered LOC
- Deep rapid (Kussmaul) respirations
- Fruity/acetone breath or odor
- Tachycardia +/- weak pulses
- Muscle wasting or weight loss
- Nausea or vomiting
- Flushed/dry skin, skin tenting
- Abdominal pain or cramping
- Dry mucous membranes

Remember other causes of ketoacidosis – ex. starvation & alcohol
Common theme: absent and/or unrecognized elevated glucose levels
Common prehospital treatment: crystalloid fluids

¹ Oral glucose/carbohydrates (including items in the patient's home) may be provided if there is no risk of aspiration related to the patient's mental status.

² To make **Dextrose 10%**: Dilute 50 mL **Dextrose 50%** in 200 mL of **NaCl** – makes 250 mL of **Dextrose 10%**. Titrate to effect.

³ Ask or look for an insulin pump on your patient. It should not be disabled unless hypoglycemia cannot be corrected – **contact Medical Control for approval to disable**.

⁴ EKG changes of hyperkalemia: peaked T waves, long PR interval, widened QRS complex, loss of P wave, sine wave, asystole

⁵ Look for causes of hyperglycemia - the I's: Infection, Insufficient Insulin, Ischemia (i.e. acute MI), and It's new-onset diabetes.