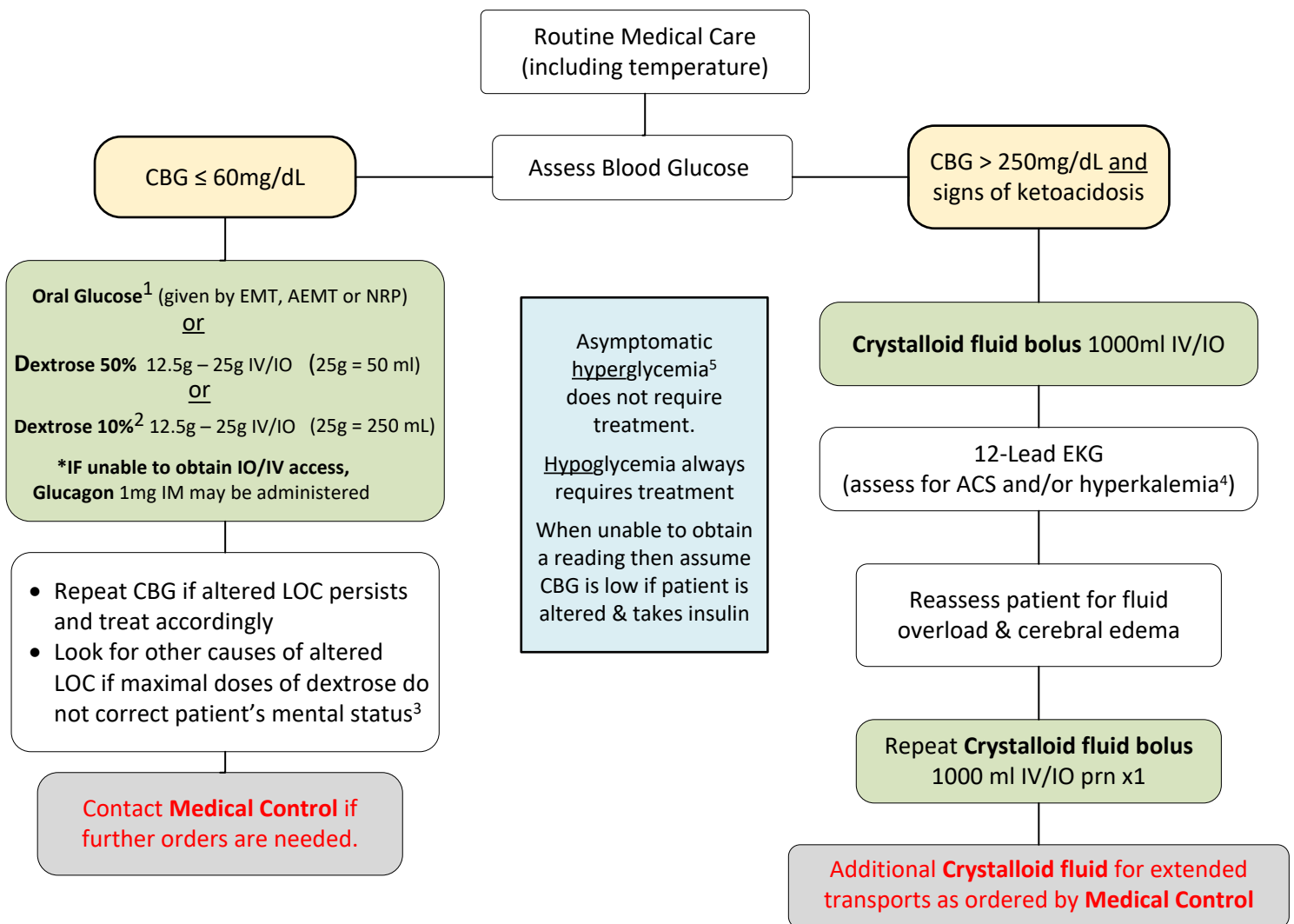


# Diabetic Emergency



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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

<sup>3</sup> 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.**

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

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