

# Low blood sugar (Hypoglycemia)

## Causes

You might get low blood sugar (also called hypoglycemia) if you:

- Take certain medicines and eat too few carbohydrates, or skip or delay a meal
- Take too much insulin or diabetes pills (ask your diabetes care team if this applies to you)
- Are more active than usual

## Signs and Symptoms

Here's what may happen when your blood sugar is low:



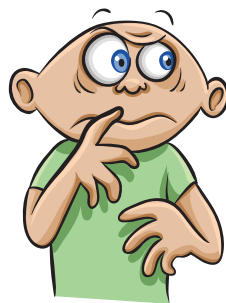
**Shaky**



**Sweaty**



**Dizzy**



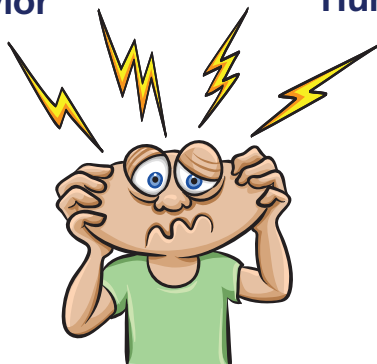
**Sudden behavior change**



**Hungry**



**Weak or tired**



**Headache**



**Nervous or upset**

If low blood sugar is not treated, it can become severe and cause you to pass out. If low blood sugar is a problem for you, talk to your doctor or diabetes care team.

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## What to do if you think you have low blood sugar

**Check** your blood sugar right away if you have any symptoms of low blood sugar. If you think your blood sugar is low but cannot check it at that time, treat anyway.



**Treat** by eating or drinking 15 grams of something high in sugar, such as:

- 4 ounces (½ cup) of regular fruit juice (like orange, apple, or grape juice)
- 4 ounces (½ cup) of regular soda pop (not diet)
- 3 or 4 glucose tablets
- 5 to 6 hard candies that you can chew quickly (such as mints)



**Wait** 15 minutes and then check your blood sugar again. If it is still low, eat or drink something high in sugar again. Once your blood sugar returns to normal, eat a meal or snack. This can help keep low blood sugar from coming back.



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