

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Please Note: This policy is currently under review.

Diabetes Care at the End of Life

This procedural document supersedes: PAT/T 57 v.3 – Diabetes Care at the End of Life



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Executive Sponsor	Mr Timothy Noble - Medical Director
Author/reviewer: (this	Karen Lanaghan, Lead Nurse End of Life Care Services
version)	Shivani Dewan, Consultant Diabetologist
	Sue Robson, Lead Nurse Diabetes
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Amendment Form

Please record brief details of the changes made alongside the next version number. If the procedural document has been reviewed **without change**, this information will still need to be recorded although the version number will remain the same.

Version	Date Issued	Brief Summary of Changes	Author	
Version 4	10 September 2021	 Minor changes of names and dates only 	Karen Lanaghan Shivani Dewan Sue Robson	
Version 3	21 March 2019	 Amendment to algorithm for End of Life Diabetes Management 	Annette Johnson Karen Lanaghan Shivani Dewan	
Version 2 (amended)	15 March 2016	Addition to section 4.2 at the request of the Ethics Advisory Committee – see Type 1 diabetes :DO NOT DISCONTINUE THE INSULIN, unless the patient requests it to be stopped.	Annette Johnson	
Version 2	5 January 2016	 This document has been revised with significant changes - please read in full 	Annette Johnson Karen Lanaghan Shivani Dewan	
Version 1	June 2012	 This is a new procedural document - please read in full 	Laura McTague John Hosker Tracy Evans- Phillips	

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Approximately half a million people die in the United Kingdom each year, of whom more than three quarters are aged 75 years and over. Calculations based on the prevalence of diabetes indicate that 6-9% of those dying will have diabetes, the majoritywith Type 2 diabetes (Association of British Clinical Diabetologists (ABCD) Statement 2010. The National Diabetes Inpatient audit found that patients with diabetes accounted for 18% of all hospital audited beds (NaDIA 2017).
- 1.2 Previous studies into the care of people with diabetes at the end of life have highlighteda wide variation in clinical practice. There has been no clear consensus or guidance about the frequency of blood sugar testing and the use of sliding scale insulin/complex insulin regimes at the end of life.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to empower staff within DBTH who liaise, interact, or have management responsibilities for those patients (and their families/carers) with diabetes at theend of their life.

The key points are:

- Describe a consistent high quality approach towards end of life diabetes care.
- Inform the workforce about the key issues in end of life diabetes care, providing a platformfor sensitive, appropriate and supportive care.
- To foster partnerships in end of life diabetes care within Trust established Palliative Care Planning, the DBTH Individualised Plan of Care in Last Hours/Days of Life (IPOC 029) and End of Life: Guidelines for the Management of Patients in last hours/days of life (PAT/T 65).

3. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Lead Nurse Diabetes and Endocrinology

- Implementation of this policy and all National recommendations made regardingdiabetes at the end of life care.
- Ensure education and training of all appropriate Trust staff.
- Responsibilities to ensure all patients with diabetes receive an equitable and high qualityservice.
- To be alerted to all patients with diabetes who are identified as being in the last fewdays/hours of life.
- Escalate any incidents regarding diabetes end of life care to the relevant clinicalgovernance groups.

Lead Diabetologist and Specialist Palliative Care Consultant

- Act as a clinical expert in diabetes end of life care.
- Provide education and training to medical staff.

Head of Nursing and Quality for Division of Medicine

- Support the Lead Nurse in provision of care for patients with diabetes at the end of life.
- The Doncaster Diabetes Network meet every two months and may include End of Life Careon the agenda.

Matrons and Ward Managers

- To promote safe standards of diabetes end of life care on all wards as appropriate.
- Ward Managers to release staff when required in order to participate in education andtraining.

All staff directly involved in caring for patients who are dying and have diabetes

- All staff to demonstrate empathy and good communication when dealing with patientsdeemed to be in the last few days/hours of life and also their relatives. Remembering that many of these patients will have self-managed their diabetes care for many years and may want to continue to make decisions.
- To ensure all diabetic patients on the individualised plan of care for the last few days/hours of life, are referred to the Diabetes Specialist Nurse Team so that they canoffer the patient and staff full support and guidance.

4. **PROCEDURE**

- End of life/Specialist Palliative Care Team referral to Diabetes Specialist Nursing Team to inform of patient. Monday-Friday 0800-1700. Sat and Sun and bank Holidays 0800-1500.
- Talk to the individual and their family to discuss the diabetes management during the lasthours/days of life.
- Explain to the patient/family the principles of diabetes care at the end of life.
- Document within the Individualised Plan of Care in Last Hours/Days of Life (IPOC 029)Multi-disciplinary Team progress notes an individualised medical plan for the patient.
- Agree this plan of care with the patient/relative and multi-disciplinary team caring for theindividual/End of Life Care Team.

4.1 Key Principles of Care

- Provision of a symptom free-death.
- Tailor glucose- lowering therapy and minimise diabetes related adverse treatment.
- Avoid metabolic de-compensation and diabetes related emergencies:
 - Frequent and unnecessary hypoglycaemia. See In Hospital Management of Hypoglycaemia in Adults with Diabetes Mellitus – PAT/T 49.
 - Diabetic keto-acidosis; if this occurs follow IPOC 1421 WPR39420 see Appendix 1
 - Hyperosmolar hyperglycaemic state;
 - Persistent symptomatic hyperglycaemia.
- Avoidance of symptomatic clinical dehydration.
- Support and maintain the empowerment of the individual patient (in their diabetesmanagement) and their carer to the last possible stage.

4.2 Management goals in key clinical areas

- **Glucose control targets** Discuss with the patient and responsible Multi-disciplinary team (MDT), the recommendation that blood glucose should not be maintained lowerthan 6mmol/l or higher than 15mmol/l to avoid symptoms.
- Prevention/ management of hypoglycaemia Adjustment of hypoglycaemic agents as below.
 Follow the Trust protocol for In Hospital Management of Hypoglycaemia in Adults withDiabetes Mellitus - PAT/T 49.
- **Type 1 diabetes:** Insulin withdrawal is likely to lead to death. Insulin therapy should besimplified. **DO NOT DISCONTINUE THE INSULIN, unless the patient requests it to be stopped.** See Appendix 2.
- **Type 2 diabetes on Insulin therapy:** Insulin therapy should be simplified. See Appendix2.
- **Type 2 diabetes treated with diet/diet and tablets/non- insulin injectable** Stop hypoglycaemic agents. Stop blood glucose monitoring. If patient symptomatic of hyperglycaemia e.g. polyuria or polydipsia check blood glucose with point of care testingequipment.
 - a) If blood glucose less than 15mmol/l only retest if symptoms are troublesome.
 - b) If blood glucose greater than 15mmol/l consider long acting analogue insulin.
 - c) See Appendix 2 for guidance.

4.3 Patients Lacking Capacity

Sometimes it will be necessary to provide care and treatment to patients who lack the capacityto make decisions related to the content of this policy. In these instances staff must treat the patient in accordance with the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA 2005).

- A person lacking capacity should not be treated in a manner which can be seen asdiscriminatory.
- Any act done for, or any decision made on behalf of a patient who lacks capacity must bedone, or made, in the persons Best Interest.
- Further information can be found in the MCA policy, and the Code of Practice, bothavailable on the intranet.

There is no single definition of Best Interest. Best Interest is determined on an individual basis. All factors relevant to the decision must be taken into account, family and friends should be consulted, and the decision should be in the Best Interest of the individual. Pleasesee S5 of the MCA code of practice for further information.

5. TRAINING/SUPPORT

The Trust learning needs analysis (diabetes) will identify individual needs for

staff. Diabetes and Endocrinology can be contacted at any time for support.

6. MONITORING COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROCEDURAL DOCUMENTS

What is being Monitored	Who will carry out the Monitoring	How often	How Reviewed/ Where Reported to
End of Life Care in patients with the co-morbidity of Diabetes who have been referred to the Diabetes Specialist Nurse Team	In-patient Diabetes Specialist Nurse Team (IDSN)	Annually	A review of blood glucose control will take place within two weeks of death and an annual audit will be presented by the Lead Nurse Diabetes & Endocrinology at PSRG/End of Life Care Team Meeting.

7. **DEFINITIONS**

IDSN - In-patient diabetes specialist nurse **ABCD** – Association of British Clinical Diabetologists

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Trust aims to design and implement services, policies and measures that meet the diverse needs of our service, population and workforce, ensuring that none are disadvantaged over others. Our objectives and responsibilities relating to equality and diversity are outlined within our equality schemes. When considering the needs and assessing the impact of a procedural document any discriminatory factors must be identified

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been conducted on this procedural document in line with the principles of the Equality Analysis Policy (CORP/EMP 27) and the Fair Treatment for All Policy (CORP/EMP 4).

The purpose of the EIA is to minimise and if possible remove any disproportionate impact on employees on the grounds of race, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation or religious belief. No detriment was identified (see Appendix 3).

9. ASSOCIATED TRUST PROCEDURAL DOCUMENTS

- Mental Capacity Act 2005 Policy and Guidance, including Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) PAT/PA 19
- Privacy and Dignity Policy PAT/PA 28
- In Hospital Management of Hypoglycaemia in Adults with Diabetes Mellitus PAT/T 49
- End of Life: Guidelines for the Management of Patients in last hours/days of life PAT/T 65
- Individualised plan of care in last hours/days of life IPOC 029 WPR23887
- Adult Diabetic keto-acidosis(DKA) treatment and monitoring chart IPOC 1421
- Equality Analysis Policy (CORP/EMP 27)
- Fair Treatment for All Policy (CORP/EMP 4)

10. DATA PROTECTION

Any personal data processing associated with this policy will be carried out under 'Current data protection legislation' as in the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2021.

For further information on data processing carried out by the trust, please refer to our Privacy Notices and other information which you can find on the trust website: <u>https://www.dbth.nhs.uk/about-us/our-publications/information-governance/</u>

11. REFERENCES

ABCD 2010, Position statement on diabetes and end of life care (Association of British Clinical Diabetologists)

DIABETES UK (2018) End of Life Diabetes Care: Clinical Care Recommendations 2018 3nd edition on<u>www.diabetes.org.uk</u>

NHS Digital (2018) National Diabetes In-patient audit 2017 on https://files.digital.nhs.uk/pdf/s/7/nadia-17-rep.pdf

Department of Constitutional Affairs Mental Capacity Act (2005): Code of Practice, 2007 <u>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data</u> /file/497253/Mental-capacity-act-code-of-practice.pdf

APPENDIX 1 – IPOC 1421 WPR39420

Bass	etlaw	caster / Hospi Foundation	tals		Surnai	t Number: me: ame(s):		0.000.00	
ADU		ETIC KETO		(DKA)	Addre	SS:			
		ANDMON							
• Not t	within fir o be used	t chart will re st 24 hours o I for Paediatri g chart on pa	f DKA mana c DKA patie	gement. nts.	Ward:	Cons	BDGH	/ DRI	
				age 2 and 3.	Patient \	Weight:	Kg		
Rate and	volume m	ay need to be	reduced in p		25 or over	s and review the f 70 years of age, pre			
Type of	Volume	Potassium C	hloride	Standard rate	/Amend	Prescriber	Infusion	started	
Fluid		See Page 4 fo prescription ((Delete as ap	guidance.	as per fluid st (Delete as app		Name and signature	Time	By	Che
	1 Litre	None (Action 2 - Box A on page 2)		1 hr / other If SBP <90, give 500ml from this bag over 15 min.					
	500 ml	20 mmol / None		1 hr/other				2	- 8
0.9%	500 ml	20 mmol / None		1 hr / other				-	
Sodium	500 ml	20 mmol / None 20 mmol / None		1 hr/other		;			
Chloride	500 ml	20 mmoi / None 20 mmol / None		2 hrs/other			-		-
via infusion	500 ml	20 mmol / None		2 hrs / other	10162			8	- 35
pump	500 ml	20 mmol / None		2 hrs / other					
	500 ml	20 mmol / None		2 hrs/other					
	500 ml	20 mmol / None 20 mmol / None		3 hrs/other 3 hrs/other				-	
	500 mi	2010/00/2010		3 nrs/ other				2	- 33
When blo Review a	od gluco nd consid	se < 14 mmo ler reducing	the rate of s	odium chlorid	le infusion	ml/hr to run along to avoid fluid ove	erload an	d cerebra	chlori I oede
	Rate		1000 1000 000 0000	ate of concomit		Prescriber Name	Infusion started		1.0
4.	d has first	122	1 S - 62. SS - 563	oride need adju	usting	and signature	Time	By	Ch
10%	4 hrs/ot 4 hrs/ot		Yes/No Yes/No		2				- 12
Glucose 500ml	4 hrs/ot		Yes/No					1	
Suumi	4 hrs/oth	ner	Yes/No						
2	 Comme unable If patien 	nce IV insulin to weigh. 1t already tak	via a pump ing basal ins	at a continuou	is fixed rate antus, Leve	ibe stat dose on JA e of 0.1 units/kg/ho mir, Tresiba, Insula	ur. Estima	ate patient	weight
				Initial rate- m	l/hour	Prescriber name	Infusion	n started	
INSULIN	l based fixed dose continuous IV 1- starting dose of 0.1 unit / kg/ hour)			(Not likely to b than 15 ml/ho		and bleep	Time	Ву	Che
(Weight	starting d					1			
(Weight infusion Human A		ulin 50 units in de 0.9% iv		*			-	8	

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Abridged ADULT DIABETIC KETOACIDOSIS (DKA) MANAGEMENT pathway

CONFIRM DIAGNOSIS OF DKA - all of following present:

- Capillary ketone >3mmol/L or Urine Ketone > 2+
- Blood glucose >11mmol/L or known diabetes mellitus (be aware of Euglycaemic DKA)
- Bicarbonate <15mmol/L or venous/arterial pH <7.3

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS:

- Rapid ABCDE with measurement of RR, temp, pulse, BP, EWS, GCS and pulse oximetry
- · Check Capillary glucose (BM) and ketones using blood and ketone meters.
- Obtain urgent IV access and commence IV fluids (Box A action 2) request critical care support if difficulties.
- Stat dose of 10 units of Human Actrapid given either sc or im.
- Send venous sample for U&E's, lab glucose, FBC and measure bicarbonate and pH by venous blood gas.

The presence of one or more of the following may indicate severe DKA -

Obtain immediate senior review and refer to Critical Care for consideration of admission:

- GCS less than 12 (or abnormality on AVPU scale)
- Hypokalaemia on admission (below 3.5mmol/L)
- Systolic BP persistently below 90 mmHg despite fluid resuscitation
- · Oxygen saturation below 92% on air (assuming normal baseline respiratory function)
- Venous or arterial pH persistently below 7.1
- Venous bicarbonate level below 5mmol/L
- Capillary ketones above 6mmol/L

Action 1	Urgent initial assessment and confirm diagnosis as above							
Action 2	Commence 0.9% sodium chloride infusion via infusion pump							
	If SBP remains below 90mmHg this may be repeated whilst awaiting senior input. In practice most pa- tients require between 500 to 1000mL given rapidly. Once SBP above 90mmHg follow fluid replacement schedule on page 1.							
Action 3	Administer stat dose of 10 units soluble insulin s/c or i/m – Prescribe on A&E clerking sheet or on JAC							
Action 4	Commence fixed rate intravenous insulin infusion (IVII) 0.1 unit/kg/hr based on actual or estimate weight – prescribe on page 1 Use 50 units human Actrapid in 50 ml sodium chloride 0.9% If patient usually takes basal insulin such as Lantus, Levemir, Tresiba, Humulin I or Insulatard, then prescribe it on JAC for it to be given at usual dose and time Insulin may be given through same line as IV fluids using a Y connector							
Action 5	Complete full history and clinical examination Refer to Critical Care for admission if above guidelines indicate severe DKA.							
Action 6	Consider further investigations, ascertain precipitating causes and treat accordingly CXR, ECG, MI screen, MSU, blood cultures							
Action 7	Establish monitoring regimen and ensure this is clearly handed over to medical team. Use 24 hour DKA monitoring form on page 4 Investigations needed at 60 min : BM, Capillary Ketone, Venous U&Es and VBG for pH and bicarbonate Continuous pulse oximetry and cardiac monitoring if required							
Action 8	Prescribe thrombo-prophylaxis on JAC							
Action 9	Ward location Initial Management should be in ED Resus until bed on ATC/ MAU/Critical care is available. Transfer to Diabetes ward from ATC/MAU should only be considered on resolution of DKA as per the criteria. Patients developing DKA whilst inpatient on non-medical hospital wards should be referred to on call Medical							
Action 10	Registrar and transferred to ATC/MAU.(Unless Critical Care Outreach involvement is indicated as per above criteria). Intravenous bicarbonate is very rarely necessary. Discuss with on call Medical Consultant/ Critical care team if pH does not improve and remains <7.1							

Page 2

	magement from 60 minutes to 6 hours- likely to be transferred to ATC/MAU/HDU during	g this period							
Aims	 Venous bicarbonate rise of at least 3mmol/L/hr OR rate of fall of ketones of at least 0.5mmol/L/hr and blood glucose fall of at least 3mmol/L/hr Maintain serum potassium in normal range Avoid hypoglycaemia 								
Action 1	Re-assess patient and continue to monitor vital signs – Ensure that patient has had a senior review (SpR/Consultant) • Consider urinary catheterisation if incontinent or anuric (ie not passed urine by 60 minutes) • Consider nasogastric tube if patient obtunded or if persistently vomiting • If oxygen saturation falling measure ABGs and request (or repeat) CXR • Document accurate fluid balance including urine output (minimum desired output = 0.5ml/kg/hr)								
Action 2	 Review metabolic parameters Capillary Measurements- glucose and ketone Venous measurements- pH, bicarbonate via 2 hours, 4 hours and 6 hours. Complete DKA monitoring chart on Page 4 for 	venous blood gas and serum potassium at 60 minutes,							
Action 3	 Plasma glucose not falling by at least 3mmol/l If ketone level, bicarbonate or glucose not cor look for insulin infusion pump malfunction. Bl If plasma glucose not falling by 3 mmol/l, ensu If pump working and connected but metaboli increments until targets achieved Resolution of DKA is defined by capillary ketor > or =15mmol/L. Continue fixed rate capillary 	nol/L/hr or blood ketone level not falling by 0.5mmol/L/hr L/hr recting as expected check IV lines, volumes of fluid remaining, ood ketones should fall by at least 0.5mmol/L/hr. ure insulin infusion pump is working correctly. ic response inadequate, increase insulin infusion rate by 1 unit/hr nes <0.6mmol/L and venous pH >7.3 and/or venous bicarbonate							
Action 4	often high on admission but falls precipitous on page 1 as per the Serum potassium result	iss potassium replacement (as page 1) and check hourly.							
Action 5		la Infusion pump – when blood glucose is less than 14mmol/L commence 10% at dium chloride – review fluid prescription to avoid fluid overload							
Action 6	JAC- Ensure thromboprophylaxis if indicated as per Action 4 and 8 in Box A	and basal Insulin is prescribed on JAC if not already done							
BOX C: 61	to 12 HOURS	BOX D: 12 to 24 HOURS If DKA not resolved by 24 hours, seek senior review							
Aims									
	Re-assess patient, monitor vital signs Re-assess patient, monitor vital signs • If patient not improving seek senior advice • If patient not improving seek senior advice								
Action 1	Ensure referral made to Diabetes Team	 If patient not improving seek senior advice Ensure referral made to Diabetes Team – if not already done 							
Action 1 Action 2									
0.0000000000	Ensure referral made to Diabetes Team Review blochemical and metabolic parameters At 6 hours check venous pH, potassium, bicarbonate and glucose If DKA not resolved refer to Action 3 in Box B Once DKA is resolved- Use of this IPOC should If patient eating- switch back to their subcutane If not eating or drinking- continue IV fluids and	 Ensure referral made to Diabetes Team – if not already done Review biochemical and metabolic parameters At 12, 18 and 24 hours check venous pH, bicarbonate, serum potassium and serum glucose If remains acidotic (pH<7.3 and/or HCO₃<15) despite of clearance of blood ketones, check for alternative cause of persisting acidosis be discontinued and it should be filed in medical notes. 							

Page 3

Hours	Clock	Meter Readings		Volume infused per hour in mls			Cumulative Urine total IV Output	Nurse Initials	Venous blood gas/ lab results			
start Clock	Time	Glucose mmol/l	Ketone mmol/l	Insulin	0.9%	10% Glucose	volume infused (ml)	per hour (ml)		рН	Bicarbonate mmol/1	Potassium mmol/1
0												
1st												
2 nd												
3 rd												
4 th												
5 th												
6 th												
7 th												
8 th												
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Potassium level in first 24 hours	Potassium replacement guide
Over 5.5 mmol/l	Nil- Reassess Serum K in 1 hour
3.5 to 5.5 mmol/l	20 mmol in every 500ml fluid infused until next scheduled potassium measurement.
Below 3.5 mmol/l	Urgent senior review. May need additional Potassium replacement with cardiac and hourly Serum K monitoring

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APPENDIX 2 - ALGORITHM FOR FND OF LIFF DIABETES CARE MANAGEMENT (To be followed when the patient is on the Individualised Plan of care in Last Hours /Days of Life) All discussions and management plan to be documented in the IPOC Refer to the In-patient Diabetes Specialist Nurse Team Type 2 Diabetes Type 2 Diabetes Type 2 Diabetes Other hypoglycaemic Insulin therapy with or Type 1 Diabetes Diet control or agents and GLP1 Agonist without oral agents Metformin treated e.g. Liraglutide/Exenatide Stop oral therapy Stop metformin if Stop tablets and Change insulin to a daily Continue Basal Insulin prescribed and stop GLP1 injection long acting insulin with a e.g. Lantus/Levemir with blood glucose Stop blood glucose 25% reduction on 20% reduction monitoring monitoring previous dose e.g. Lantus or Levemir If symptomatic of polyuria/polydipsia Check blood glucose If greater than 20mmols consider adding in Check blood glucose once daily at teatime If below 6mmol/l decrease insulin dose 20% daily insulin If above 15mmol/l increase 10% to reduce risk of symptoms or ketosis If insulin is required, Add in daily insulin injection e.g. Lantus/Levemir 6 units Page 13 of 14

Service/Function/Policy/ Project/Strategy	Division/Executive Department		Assessor (s)	New or Existing Service or Policy?	Date of Assessment	
Diabetes Care at the End of Life – PAT/T 57 v.4	Division of Medicine		Annette Johnson, Lead Nurse	Existing policy revised	17/02/2021	
1) Who is responsible for this	policy? Name of I	Division/Directorate	Division of Medicine	•		
2) Describe the purpose of the ensuring the control of the			trategy? To ensure all patients with death.	n Diabetes who reach the end	d of their life receive care	
 Are there any associated ob 						
4) What factors contribute or			•			
			nder, gender reassignment, sexual pact Assessment Guidance] - No	orientation, marriage/civil p	artnership,	
If yes, please descr	ibe current or pla	nned activities to add	ress the impact [e.g. Monitoring, co	onsultation] –		
5) Is there any scope for new r	measures which w	ould promote equali	ty? [any actions to be taken] No			
Are any of the following group	oups adversely af	fected by the policy?	NO			
Protected Characteristics	Affected?	Impact				
a) Age	No					
b) Disability	No					
c) Gender	No					
d) Gender Reassignment	No					
e) Marriage/Civil Partnership	No					
f) Maternity/Pregnancy	No					
g) Race	No					
h) Religion/Belief	No					
Provide the Equality Rating	; of the service / f	unction /policy / proj	ect / strategy — tick outcome box			
Outcome 1 🗸 🛛 Outcom	ne 2 O	outcome 3	Outcome 4			
				complete a Detailed Equality An		