

# Diabetes Adverse Drug Events (ADEs)



## PATIENT SAFETY

### Definitions:

**CMS:** An injury resulting from drug-related medical interventions.<sup>2</sup>

### Quick Facts:

- It is generally estimated that about **half of ADEs are preventable**.<sup>3</sup>
- Antidiabetic meds, anticoagulants/antiplatelet meds and opioids account for **more than 50%** of ED visits for ADEs in Medicare patients.<sup>3</sup>
- Each year, ADEs account for nearly **700,000 ED visits and 100,000 hospitalizations**.<sup>3</sup>

### Occurrences That Could Point to a Diabetes Medication ADE<sup>2</sup>:

- Stat administration of Glucagon or IV Dextrose.
- Administration of orange juice or other high sugar food and fluids in response to blood sugar reading or symptoms.
- Stat order for lab testing including to evaluate blood sugar, fluid, and electrolyte status.
- Stat order for insulin.
- New order for and administration of IV fluids.
- Transfer to hospital.

### Common Effects of Diabetes Medication ADEs<sup>2</sup>:



Unconsciousness



Falls, Incoordination, Weakness, Fatigue, or Somnolence



Lightheadedness, Dizziness, Sweating, Chills, Clamminess, Elevated Temperature



Hypoglycemia, Hyperglycemia, Ketones in Urine



Headache, Abdominal Pain, Hunger, Nausea/Vomiting, Dehydration



Excessive Thirst and/or Urination



Tingling or Numbness in Lips and/or Tongue, Fruity-Scented Breath, Complaints of Blurred or Impaired Vision



Rapid Heartbeat, Rapid Respiration



Change in Mental Status, Confusion, Emotional Changes (Including New Anger, Sadness, Stubbornness)



Shakiness, Nervousness, Anxiety, Irritability, Seizures

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/medicationsafety/adult\\_adversedrugs.html](https://www.cdc.gov/medicationsafety/adult_adversedrugs.html)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/QAPI/Downloads/Adverse-Drug-Event-Trigger-Tool.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://psnet.ahrq.gov/primer/medication-errors-and-adverse-drug-events>