

Diabetic Emergencies

Will Ferguson, MD FACEP, FAAEM
Director of the Office of EMS
UAB, Department of Emergency Medicine

Will Ferguson's career in emergency care spanned from that of an EMT, RN, flight nurse, then through medical school, residency, fellowship and now an attending physician. He has been involved in EMS education for over 20 years, from clinical skills in the 1990's, to medical director at a CoAEMSP accredited Paramedic Program and both fire and non-fire based EMS agencies. Will is an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at UAB where he also serves as the Director of the Office of EMS.

Diabetes is a very common disease encountered almost daily in EMS. The course will discuss current trends in management that can impact patient encounters in the pre-hospital environment. It will cover more than hypo and hyperglycemia and provide pearls of how to help potentially differentiate those from more serious conditions such as DKA and Hyperosmolar states.

Presentation Outline:

- I: Basic Pathophysiology of Diabetes and current important trends in outpatient therapy
- II. Diabetic Emergencies related to Hyperglycemia
 - DKA/HONK(HHS)/hyperglycemia
- III. Hypoglycemia
 - When in matters/ causes/ transport decisions

Objective 1: Understand the pathophysiology and treatment of hyperglycemic emergencies.

Objective 2: Understand the pathophysiology and treatment of hypoglycemic emergencies.

Objective 3: Understand the pathophysiology of current diabetic medications/therapies.