

Post-Operative Blood Sugar Checks and Insulin Infusions

Many things can affect how you heal after surgery, such as normal blood sugars. If blood sugar levels are too high, you are more at risk for an infection. This is true for all patients.

We use protocols after surgery to help make sure you are treated properly. We want you to know how important this is before you have your surgery, so if you need blood sugar levels checked or insulin given, you know why.

Whose blood sugar is checked?

Most patients who have surgery.

What is insulin?

Insulin is a hormone made by the pancreas that **keeps blood sugar levels normal.**

Why do I need insulin now?

There are many reasons you may need insulin. Stress can raise your blood sugars. Surgery can cause a stress

response. Some people's blood sugars go up when they are worried or anxious. Also, medicines such as steroids or changes in your diet or activity can raise your blood sugars.

What is an insulin drip?

An insulin drip goes through an intravenous line (IV). Insulin given through an IV gets into your body faster and brings down high blood sugars.

What are normal blood sugar levels?

Normal blood sugar levels are 70 – 99 mg/dL when fasting and before meals. The normal levels after meals is < 140 mg/dL.

How often is my blood sugar checked?

Your blood sugars will be checked before, during, and after surgery. If you need an insulin drip, blood sugar levels are checked every 1-2 hours. Blood sugar levels can change quickly, which is why we check so often.