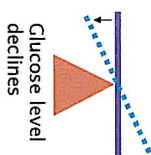
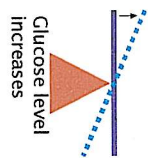


Maintaining Normal Blood Glucose Level

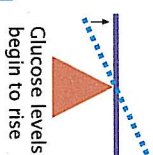
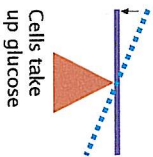
The hormones insulin and glucagon help maintain normal blood glucose levels, illustrated by the balanced “seesaws” in Steps 3 and 6. Levels of these hormones are controlled by negative feedback, as shown to the right.

Step 1
 After you eat a meal, glucose enters the bloodstream faster than cells can use it. Glucose levels rise.



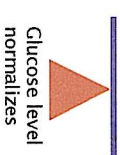
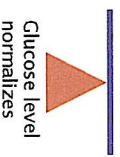
Step 4
 Between meals, blood glucose levels drop.

Step 2
 Beta cells of the pancreas are stimulated to release insulin into the blood. Cells take up glucose.



Step 5
 Alpha cells of the pancreas are stimulated to release glucagon into the blood. Cells of the liver and other body cells convert glycogen to glucose, which enters the bloodstream.

Step 3
 Cells of the liver and other body cells use glucose for energy or convert it to the polysaccharide glycogen. The level of glucose in the blood returns to normal.



Step 6
 Rising glucose levels return blood sugar to its normal level.

