

5 Signs and Symptoms of Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA)

With similar symptoms to common illnesses, DKA can be hard to detect but specific clues can help separate the two. That's why it's important to know the signs and symptoms of DKA, to help recognize it early and ensure timely, targeted therapy.



Frequent Urination

High blood sugar levels may cause your child to urinate more than usual. Check a urine sample for glucose and ketones to help determine if DKA is present or not.



Increased Thirst

In response to frequent urination, your child may feel dehydrated and more thirsty than normal.



Increased Hunger

With high blood glucose levels, extra glucose spills into your child's urine. This results in losing calories when your child urinates, potentially leaving your child extra hungry.



Weight Loss

Unlike with common illnesses, your child may lose weight over multiple weeks while developing diabetes and leading to a potential diagnosis.



Flu-like Symptoms

All of the above signs may lead to flu-like symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, dry mouth, abdominal pain and some symptoms unique to DKA, like blurry vision and a fruity odor to your child's breath. Always seek medical attention if your child has these symptoms.