

My name is MITCHELL E. GEFFNER, MD and I am an endocrinologist practicing at CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LOS ANGELES.

I am writing in support of SB874. Children and adults with adrenal insufficiency are at risk of an adrenal crisis which can be brought on by accident, injury, illness or other events stressful on the body. An adrenal crisis is a life threatening event. Depending on the health of the individual and cause of the adrenal crisis, death could occur in as little as 30 minutes, sometimes even less. Presenting features may include but are not limited to hypotension, hypoglycemia, and altered level of consciousness. Those in adrenal crisis often have vomiting and diarrhea.

Immediate intervention with Solu-Cortef® can be life-saving. An injection of Solu-Cortef® will start working in 15 minutes or less so that the sooner a patient is given the injection the better their chance of recovery. Until the Solu-Cortef® injection is given other treatment will not be effective.

One third of adrenal crisis events occur outside the home so Solu-Cortef® must be available on emergency response vehicles. In addition, those with adrenal insufficiency must be given priority in the Emergency Department setting. When in doubt, it's always better to give the injection than to withhold it.

If Solu-Cortef® is given to an adrenally-insufficient patient who is not experiencing a crisis, it will do no harm. The injection will not harm someone WITHOUT adrenal insufficiency either. **However, if the injection is not given, the adrenally-insufficient patient could suffer irreparable harm and even death.**

Look for emergency identification bracelets or necklaces and listen to the family members and friends. If a patient is known to have adrenal insufficiency, an immediate injection can save lives and lessen the chance of severe complications.