

[Open Peer Review on Qeios](#)

# Alpha cell

National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse (NDIC)

## Definitions

### Pancreas

Defined by National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse (NDIC)

### Hormone

Defined by National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse (NDIC)

### Blood glucose

Defined by National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse (NDIC)

### Liver

Defined by National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse (NDIC)

### Glucose

Defined by National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse (NDIC)

## Source

National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse (U.S.). (2009). *The diabetes dictionary*. [Bethesda, Md.]: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse.

A type of cell in the [pancreas](#). Alpha cells make and release a [hormone](#) called [glucagon](#). The body sends a signal to the alpha cells to make glucagon when [blood glucose](#) falls too low. Then glucagon reaches the [liver](#), where it tells the liver to release [glucose](#) into the blood for energy.