

## Medicines for Type 2 Diabetes

### *Basic facts*

*This handout explains the drugs that are most often used by people with type 2 diabetes.*

### **What is type 2 diabetes?**

Type 2 diabetes is a complex disease. It involves the pancreas and other organs in the body.

In type 2 diabetes, the body may not fully use the insulin it makes. This is called *insulin resistance*. The body may also not produce enough insulin. This is called *insulin deficiency*.

You may need medicine to help keep your blood glucose at healthy levels. Some people may need more than 1 kind of diabetes medicine to treat their type 2 diabetes.



*Your healthcare provider will help you find the right medicine(s) for you.*

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### **Medicines**

<b>Medicine Names</b>	<b>Primary Site of Action and Drug Class</b>	<b>How It Works</b>	<b>How Is It Given?</b>	<b>Possible Adverse Effects</b>
Metformin ( <i>Glucophage</i> )	Liver <i>Biguanide</i>	Decreases amount of glucose the liver releases into bloodstream and may help reduce insulin resistance	Orally (by mouth)	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, gas (lessen effects by slowly increasing dose)

<b>Drug Names</b>	<b>Primary Site of Action and Drug Class</b>	<b>How It Works</b>	<b>How Is It Given?</b>	<b>Side Effects</b>
Glyburide ( <i>Micronase, DiaBeta</i> ) Glipizide ( <i>Glucotrol</i> ) Glimepiride ( <i>Amaryl</i> ) Repaglinide ( <i>Prandin</i> ) Nateglinide ( <i>Starlix</i> )	Pancreas <i>Insulin Secretagogues</i>	Makes the pancreas release more insulin	Orally	<i>Hypoglycemia</i> (low blood glucose)
Exenatide ( <i>Byetta, Bydureon</i> ) Liraglutide ( <i>Victoza</i> ) Dulaglutide ( <i>Trulicity</i> ) Albiglutide ( <i>Tanzeum</i> )	Pancreas, liver, and gut <i>Incretin</i>	Makes the pancreas release more insulin Prevents the production of glucose in the liver Slows movement of food out of the gut Decreases appetite	Injected into the fatty layer just below the skin ( <i>subcutaneous injection</i> )	Nausea, vomiting, hypoglycemia
Sitagliptin ( <i>Januvia</i> ) Saxagliptin ( <i>Onglyza</i> ) Linagliptan ( <i>Tradjenta</i> )	Pancreas and liver <i>DPP-IV inhibitor</i>	Increases insulin released into bloodstream Decreases glucagon levels	Orally	No major side effects Possible cold symptoms
Rosiglitazone ( <i>Avandia</i> ) Pioglitazone ( <i>Actos</i> )	Muscle <i>Thiazolidinediones (TZDs)</i>	Improves the ability of muscle and other cells to use insulin	Orally	Weight gain, swelling
Acarbose ( <i>Precose</i> ) Miglitol ( <i>Glyset</i> )	Gut <i>Alpha Glucosidase Inhibitors</i>	Slows breakdown of carbohydrates from food eaten	Orally	Diarrhea, gas, nausea (lessen effects by slowly increasing dose)
Canagliflozin ( <i>Invokana</i> ) Dapagliflozin ( <i>Farxiga</i> ) Empagliflozin ( <i>Jardiance</i> )	Kidneys <i>SGLT2 Inhibitor</i>	Lowers blood glucose by decreasing reabsorption of glucose by the kidneys	Orally	Yeast infections, urinary tract infections, increased urination

## Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor, pharmacist, or healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.

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