

Medications for Treating Diabetes

Drug Class & Names	Action & How to Take	Common Side Effects
Metformin: Glucophage Glumetza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreases the amount of glucose made by the liver and helps cells absorb glucose better. Take with food. Start at a low dose, increase slowly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upset stomach, nausea, diarrhea, metallic taste. May lower Vitamin B12 Must be stopped when having medical procedures using iodine or dye. No effect on weight.
Insulin secretagogues Sulfonylureas: Glucon, Glyburide/ Diabeta, Euglucon Gliclazide/Diamicron Glimepiride/Amaryl Meglitinides: Repaglinide/ Gluconorm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help the pancreas secrete more insulin. Take before or with a meal. <p>Meglitinides act faster than sulfonylureas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not take if you are not eating your meal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low blood sugar: especially in the elderly and those who miss meals. May cause weight gain
DPP4 Inhibitors: Sitagliptin/Januvia Saxagliptin/Onglyza Linagliptin/Trajenta Alogliptin/Nesina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improves after meal blood glucose levels by helping the pancreas release insulin as blood sugar rises. They also slow stomach emptying. Take once daily with or without food. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tolerated well. May cause stuffy nose or respiratory infection. No effect on weight.
SGLT2 Inhibitors: Canagliflozin/Invokana Dapagliflozin/Foxiga Empagliflozin/ Jardiance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help the kidneys remove sugar from the blood and excrete it in the urine. Take once daily, in the morning. Drink water to prevent dehydration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urinary tract and yeast infections. Dehydration and low blood pressure. Significant weight loss.

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GLP-1 Injectables: Exenatide/Byetta Liraglutide/Victoza Dulaglutide/Trulicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help pancreas make more insulin, slow stomach emptying increase feeling satisfied after meal. • Prefilled pen device injected daily or once per week depending on drug choice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nausea and diarrhea which usually go away with time. • Headaches. • Significant weight loss.
AlphaglucoSIDase Inhibitors: Acarbose/Glucobay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in the intestine to slow the breakdown/digestion of carbohydrate and sugar. Slow the rise in blood sugar after a meal. • Take with the first bite of your meal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas and abdominal discomfort. • Low blood sugar is rare but must be treated with glucose tablets, milk or honey. • No effect on weight.
TZD/ Thiazolidinediones: Rosiglitazone/Avandia Pioglitazone/Actos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help insulin move glucose into the muscle and fat cells. • Take with or without food. Started at a low dose and increased over 6 to 12 weeks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edema and Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) in those with heart disease. • Must have blood work for liver function enzymes after starting these medication. • Weight gain.

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