

Learning About Diabetes Medications



It is important for you to know the name and dosage of the medication you are taking. You should not increase, skip or change your dosage unless you are told to do so by your physician.

Pills

Classification	Generic Name	Brand Name	How it works	My Dose	
Sulfonylureas	Tolazamide	Tolinase	Helps your pancreas make more insulin.		
	Tolbutamide	Orinase			
	Chlorpropamide	Diabinese			
	Glyburide	Diabeta			Glynase PresTab
		Micronase			
	Glipizide	Glucotrol Glucotrol XL			
Glimepiride	Amaryl				
↑ Important: Take with food/meals to avoid low blood					
Meglitinides	Repaglinide	Prandin	Helps your pancreas make more insulin. Helps improve your after meal blood sugar		
	Nateglinide	Starlix			
↑ Important: Take with food/meals to avoid low blood					
Biguanides	Metformin	Glucophage	Helps decrease the amount of sugar made by the liver.		
	Metformin ER	Glucophage XR			
↑ Important: Take with meals.					
Alpha-Glucosidase	Acarbose	Precose	Slows the digestion of starches in the gut.		
	Miglitol	Glyset			
↑ Important: Take with first bite of food.					
Thiazolidinediones (TZDs)	Pioglitazone	Actos	Helps improve the way insulin works in muscle and fat cells. Help decrease the amount of sugar made by the liver.		
	Rosiglitazone	Avandia			
↑ Important: Report any ankle/feet swelling or shortness of breath					
DPP 4 Inhibitors	Sitagliptin	Januvia	Allows insulin to work longer and decreases the amount of sugar made by the liver.		
	Saxagliptin	Onglyza			
	Linagliptin	Trajenta			
	Alogliptin	Nesina			
↑ Important: Take with or without food.					
SGLT 2 Inhibitors	Canagliflozin	Invokana	Helps the kidneys clear excess glucose.		
	Dapagliflozin	Farxiga			
	Empagliflozin	Jardiance			
↑ Important: Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.					

Injectable Medications

Insulin

DRUG TYPE/NAME	HOW IT WORKS	STARTS WORKING	WORKS STRONGEST	ENDS	INSTRUCTIONS
RAPID ACTING					
APIDRA (Glulisine) HUMALOG (Lispro) NOVOLOG (Aspart)	Bolus	5-15 Minutes	1-2 Hours	4-6 Hours	Looks clear. Take with meals.
SHORT ACTING					
Regular	Bolus	30-60 Minutes	2-3 Hours	6-8 Hours	Looks clear. Take 30 minutes before meals.
INTERMEIDATE ACTING					
NPH	Basal	2-4 Hours	6-10 Hours	10-18 Hours	Looks Cloudy. Roll to mix. Take as ordered.
LONG ACTING					
LANTUS (Glargine) LEVEMIR (Detemir)	Basal	1-2 Hours	No peak	Approximately 24 Hours	Looks clear. Take at same time every day. Do not mix with other insulins.
PRE-MIXED					
70/30 Humulin/Novolin	Combined Pre-Mix Basal and Bolus	30-60 Minutes	Varies	10-16 Hours	Looks cloudy. Roll to mix. Take as ordered.
50/50 Humalog/Novolog 75/25 Humalog 70/30 Humalog/Novolog	Combined Pre-Mix Basal and Bolus	5-15 min	Varies	10-16 Hours	Looks clear. Take with meal

Others

DRUGTYPE AND NAME	HOW IT WORKS	POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS
BYETTA/BYDUREON (Exenatide) TANZEUM (Albiglutide) TRULICITY (Dulaglutide) VICTOZA (Liraglutide)	Replaces naturally occurring GLP1 hormones. Helps to release insulin from the pancreas. Prevents liver from releasing too much sugar.	Nausea, vomiting Decreased appetite Constipation
SYMLIN (Pramlintide)	Helps lower after-meal blood sugar levels. Used with insulin at mealtime.	Nausea, vomiting Decreased appetite