

DIABETES and ORAL MEDICATIONS

PATIENT/FAMILY INFORMATION SHEET

Who needs to take medications to treat diabetes?

Individuals with type 2 diabetes whose blood sugar levels cannot be adequately controlled by lifestyle changes (that is, appropriate food choices, weight loss if necessary, and physical activity) may need to take medication to treat diabetes.

What types of medications are available to treat diabetes?

There are several different classes or types of medication available to treat type 2 diabetes. Each class works in a different way to control blood glucose levels. (See following chart).

Will I need to take more than one medication?

It is not uncommon to need more than one type of medication to control type 2 diabetes. Your doctor will prescribe the medication(s) that will work best for you.

Are there any side effects from these medications?

Every medication has potential side effects. If you suspect you are having a side effect from your medication, contact your doctor to report this and determine if changes need to be made.

Are there any other considerations?

Some medications are stopped for a short time period before and after tests, procedures, and surgeries. Check with your doctor if you are having any type of procedure done to see if changes need to be made in your medication schedule.

For more Patient Fact Sheets, see the Greenwich Hospital web site at www.greenwichhospital.org and Click on Patient Education

Brand Name	Generic Name	How It's Taken	Class & How It Works	Comments
Precose Glyset	acarbose miglitol	Pill	Alpha-glucosidase inhibitors Decrease digestion and absorption of carbohydrate in the small intestine to blunt after-meal increase in blood glucose.	Take with first bite of each meal. May cause diarrhea, gas. Not recommended if bowel disease is present.
Glucophage, Fortamet Glucophage XR Glumetza Riomet	metformin metformin -extended release metformin (liquid)	Pill Liquid	Biguanides Decrease production of glucose by the liver.	May cause nausea, diarrhea initially; tolerance generally increases over time. May not be used if kidney function is impaired or with severe respiratory problems, congestive heart failure or individuals over 80 years of age.
Starlix Prandin	nateglinide repaglinide	Pill	Meglitinides Short-acting medicines that increase insulin secretion at meal time.	Take right before meals. May also need to be taken before large snacks: consult with your health care provider. Not eating increases the risk of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar).
Amaryl Glucotrol Glucotrol XL Micronase, Diabeta Glynase PresTab	Glimepiride Glipizide Glipizide- long acting glyburide glyburide (micronized)	Pill	Sulfonylureas Longer-acting medicines that stimulate the pancreas to secrete insulin.	Do not skip or delay meals; not eating increases the risk of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar). May cause weight gain.
ACTOS Avandia	pioglitazone rosiglitazone	Pill	Thiazolidinediones Increases the body's sensitivity to insulin.	Takes 4-6 weeks to see effects on blood glucose control. May cause weight gain, fluid retention. Caution is necessary if congestive heart failure is present.
Cycloset	bromocriptine	Pill	Dopamine Agonist Lowers after meal blood glucose levels although the precise mechanism is not known.	Should be taken within 2 hours a waking, with food. Unlikely to cause hypoglycemia or weight gain. Possible side effects include nausea, fatigue, vomiting, headache, dizziness, orthostatic hypotension (drop in blood pressure when standing up). No adjustment needed for patients with renal impairment.
Januvia Onglyza	sitagliptin saxagliptin	Pill	DPP 4 Inhibitor Increases levels of certain gut hormones (incretins) that help increase insulin production; decrease glucose production	Lowers blood glucose after and between meals; not likely to cause hypoglycemia. May cause sore throat, respiratory infection, diarrhea
Glucovance Avandamet Actoplus Met Metaglip Avandaryl Duetact Janumet PrandiMet Kombiglyze XR	metformin + glyburide metformin + rosiglitazone metformin + pioglitazone metformin + glipizide rosiglitazone + glimepiride pioglitazone + glimepiride sitagliptin + metformin repaglinide + metformin saxagliptin + metformin	Pill	Combination medications These are combination of medications listed above. See notes above regarding how the individual medications work and comments.	