

Diabetes Medications

Class of Medication	Main Action	Name of Medication	Dose Range	Considerations/Side Effects	Benefits
Biguanides	Decreases liver output of glucose	Metformin (Glucophage/XR)	500-2500mg	- May cause nausea, bloating, diarrhea, metallic taste in mouth, B12 deficiency - GFR<30, do not use - May cause resumption of ovulation in non- ovulating pre- menopausal women	- Lowers cholesterol, no weight gain, lowers A1c 1-2% - Low cost - Does not cause hypoglycemia - Approved for pediatrics 10yo+
		Riomet (Liquid)	500-2550mg 500mg/5ml		
Sulfonylureas	Stimulates sustained insulin release	Glyburide (Diabeta)	1.25-20mg	- Can take once or twice before meals - May cause weight gain, nausea, vomiting - Can cause hypoglycemia - Glyburide is not preferred over other sulfonylureas due to increased risk of hypoglycemia	- Low-cost generic - Lowers A1C 1-2%
		(Glynase PresTab)	0.75-12mg		
		Glipizide (Glucotrol/XL)	2.5-40mg 2.5-20mg		
SGLT2 Inhibitors	- Decreases glucose reabsorption in the kidneys - Glucose is excreted through urine	Glimepiride (Amaryl)	1-8mg	- May cause hypotension, UTIs, increased urination, genital infections, ketoacidosis, weight loss - Monitor GFR	- No weight gain or hypoglycemia - Lowers A1C 0.6-1.5% - First line therapy for Heart Failure (HF), Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), Cardiovascular (CV) disease, before or with metformin - Reduces risk of CV death, HF, and preserves long-term kidney function
		Invokana* (Canagliflozin)	100-300mg QD		
		Farxiga* (Dapagliflozin)	5-10mg QD		
		Jardiance* (Empagliflozin)	10-25mg QD		
		Steglatro (Ertugliflozin)	5-15mg QD		
		Brenzavvy (Bexagliflozin)	20mg QD		

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DPP-4 Inhibitors	• Prolongs action of gut hormones • Increases insulin secretion after meals • Delays gastric emptying	Januvia (Sitagliptin) Onglyza (Saxagliptin) Tradjenta (Linagliptin) Nesina (Alogliptin)	25-100mg (Eliminated via kidney) 2.5-5mg (Eliminated via kidney&feces) 5mg (Eliminated via feces) 6.25-25mg (Eliminated via kidney)	• May cause headache and flu-like symptoms • May cause severe, disabling joint pain- notify MD, stop medication • May cause pancreatitis • Saxagliptin & Alogliptin can increase risk of heart failure- notify MD	• No weight gain or hypoglycemia • Lowers A1C 0.6-0.8%
GLP-1 RA- Glucagon-Like Peptide Receptor Agonists (Injectables)	• Increases insulin secretion after meals • Delays gastric emptying • Promotes fullness • Suppresses glucagon	Trulicity (Dulaglutide) Exenatide Ozempic (Semaglutide) Oral Ozempic Rybelsus (Oral) (Semaglutide) Victoza (Liraglutide)	0.75, 1.5, 3, 4.5mg 1x/wk Pen injection 5, 10mcg 2x/day injection 0.25, 0.5, 1, 2mg 1x/wk Pen injection 1.5, 4, 9mg 3, 7, 14mg QD in AM w/ empty stomach 0.6, 1.2, 1.8mg daily injection	• May cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, acute pancreatitis • Not indicated with a family history of medullary thyroid tumor	• No hypoglycemia • Helps with weight loss <i>with</i> lifestyle modifications • Weight loss 4-9% • Lowers A1C 0.5-1.6% • All FDA approved to help reduce risk of cardiovascular disease, death, MI, stroke (except exenatide, Saxenda)

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GIP/GLP-1 Receptor Agonists	- Increases insulin sensitivity - Increases insulin release after meals - Reduces glucagon - Delays gastric emptying	Mounjaro (Tirzepatide)	2.5, 5, 7.5, 10, 12.5, 15mg 1x/wk injection	- May nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain - Stop with pancreatitis or signs of ileus - Not indicated with a family history of medullary thyroid tumor	- Helps with weight loss <i>with</i> lifestyle modifications - Approved for peds 10-17yo - Weight loss 7-14% - Lowers A1C 1.8-2.4%
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Thiazolidinediones (TZDs)	Increases insulin sensitivity	Actos (Pioglitazone)	15-45mg	- May increase bladder cancer risk - Monitor edema, fracture risk - Can cause hypoglycemia	- Lowers A1C 0.5-1% - Recommended for PWD after a stroke and/or to treat steatosis.
Glucosidase Inhibitors	Delays carbohydrate absorption	Precose (Acarbose) Glyset (Miglitol)	25-100mg 300mg max	- Gradually increase dosage - Caution with liver or kidney problems - With hypoglycemia, treat with glucose tablets for better absorption	Lowers A1C 0.5-1%
Meglitinides	Stimulates rapid insulin burst	Prandin (Repaglinide) Starlix (Nateglinide)	0.5-4mg (liver metabolism) 60-120mg (kidney elim)	- May cause hypoglycemia and weight gain - Take before meals	Lowers A1C 1-2%
Dopamine Receptor Agonists	Resets circadian rhythm	Bromocriptine Mesylate Quick Release "QR" Cycloset	1.6-4.8mg	- Take within 2 hours of waking - May cause nausea, headache, fatigue, hypotension, syncope, somnolence	Lowers A1C 0.6-0.9%

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Bile Acid Sequestrants	Decreases cholesterol and BG levels	Welchol (Colesevelam HCL)	Up to six 625mg pills (3 in AM, 3 in PM) 3.75g packet in 4-8oz of fluid	- Do not use with history of bowel obstruction, TG>500, pancreatitis - Can decrease absorption of certain medications and soluble vitamins - May cause GI upset	- Lowers LDL by 15-30% - Lowers A1C 0.5%
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