

# Types of Diabetes Medicines

Medicine	What they do	Side effects	How to take it
<b>Biguanides</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>metformin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help decrease the liver's release of sugar</li> <li>Help the body use its own insulin better</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upset stomach</li> <li>Gas and diarrhea (loose, watery poop)</li> <li>Loss of appetite</li> <li>Bitter or metal taste in mouth</li> <li>Lactic acidosis</li> <li>Higher risk of pregnancy</li> </ul>	Take by mouth 1 or 2 times per day with food. For extended release, take 1 time daily with food.
<b>DPP-4 inhibitors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>alogliptin (Nesina)</li> <li>linagliptin (Tradjenta)</li> <li>saxagliptin (Onglyza)</li> <li>sitagliptin (Januvia)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help the pancreas make more insulin</li> <li>Decrease the liver's release of sugar</li> <li>Help the body use its own insulin better</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Headache</li> <li>Stuffy or runny nose, sneezing, sore throat</li> <li>Upset stomach</li> <li>Diarrhea (loose, watery poop)</li> </ul>	Take by mouth 1 time a day with or without food.
<b>GLP-1 and GIP/GLP-1 receptor agonists</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>dulaglutide (Trulicity)</li> <li>exenatide (Byetta, Bydureon)</li> <li>liraglutide (Victoza)</li> <li>semaglutide (Ozempic, Rybelsus*)</li> <li>tirzepatide (Mounjaro)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help the pancreas make more insulin</li> <li>Help you eat less by lowering your appetite</li> <li>Help the body use its own insulin better</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Headache</li> <li>Throwing up (vomiting)</li> <li>Upset stomach</li> <li>Redness, swelling, pain, itching, or burning where shot was given</li> <li>Weight loss</li> <li>Constipation (hard poop or trouble pooping) or diarrhea (loose poop)</li> <li>Feeling tired or weak</li> </ul>	Inject 1 or 2 times per day or 1 time per week, depending on medicine  *Rybelsus is taken by mouth 1 time a day, 30 minutes before food, with no more than 4 oz. of water
<b>Insulin</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>rapid-, short-, intermediate- or long-acting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helps give your body the extra insulin it needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low blood sugar</li> <li>Weight gain</li> </ul>	Inject 1 or more times per day
<b>Meglitinides</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>nateglinide</li> <li>repaglinide</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help the pancreas make more insulin right after you eat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low blood sugar</li> <li>Headache</li> <li>Feeling dizzy</li> <li>Weight gain</li> <li>Upset stomach</li> <li>Diarrhea (loose, watery poop)</li> <li>Flu-like symptoms</li> <li>Cold symptoms</li> </ul>	Take by mouth within 30 minutes before meals. Skip the dose if you skipped a meal.
<b>SGLT-2 inhibitors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>canagliflozin (Invokana)</li> <li>dapagliflozin (Farxiga)</li> <li>empagliflozin (Jardiance)</li> <li>ertugliflozin (Steglatro)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help remove sugar through the urine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feeling dizzy, light-headed, or very tired</li> <li>Higher risk of urinary tract or yeast infections</li> <li>Stomach pain</li> <li>Constipation (hard poop or trouble pooping)</li> </ul>	Take by mouth in the morning, with or without food.
<b>Sulfonylureas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>glimepiride</li> <li>glipizide and glipizide ER</li> <li>glyburide</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help the pancreas make more insulin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low blood sugar</li> <li>Weight gain</li> <li>Headache</li> <li>Upset stomach</li> <li>Sun sensitivity</li> </ul>	Take by mouth with food or 30 minutes before meals, depending on the medicine.
<b>TZDs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>pioglitazone (Actos)</li> <li>rosiglitazone (Avandia)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help the body use its own insulin better</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weight gain</li> <li>Worsening heart failure</li> <li>Feeling tired or weak</li> <li>Cold symptoms</li> <li>Headache</li> <li>Muscle pain</li> </ul>	Take by mouth 1 time a day with or without food.

