

Diabetes Medications

Generic Name	Trade Name	How to Take	Side Effects
1. Sulfonylureas – Tell the pancreas to produce insulin all day			
Glipizide	Glucotrol	Pill, with meals	Hypoglycemia Weight gain Lowers A1c by 1% to 2%
Glyburide	DiaBeta		
Glimepiride	Amaryl		
2. Biguanides – Stop liver from releasing sugar			
Metformin Metformin XR	Glucophage	Pill, with meals	Stomach upset (gas, diarrhea) that usually gets better with time. Requires normal kidney function Lowers A1c by 1% to 2%
3. Sensitizers – Make cells more sensitive to insulin			
Rosiglitazone	Actos	Pill, with or without meals	Can cause fluid retention May increase risk of bladder cancer, congestive heart failure, and fractures. Lowers A1C by 0.5%-1%
Pioglitazone	Avandia		

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4. Incretin Enhancers – Restores gut hormone function, slows emptying of stomach, makes you feel full			
Sitagliptin	Januvia	Pill, with or without meals	Headache Flu-like symptoms Report signs of pancreatitis (abdominal pain) Lowers A1c by 0.6% to 0.8%
Saxagliptin	Onglyza		
Linagliptin	Tradjenta		
5. Incretin Mimetics – Replenishes gut hormone, slows emptying of stomach, makes you feel full			
Exenatide	Byetta	1x/week injection	Nausea, vomiting, weight loss, injection site reaction Report signs of pancreatitis (abdominal pain) Reduces risk of CV death, heart attack, and stroke Lowers A1c by 0.5% to 1.6%
Exenatide XR	Bydureon	1x/week injection	
Liraglutide	Victoza	Daily injection	
Dulaglutide	Trulicity	1x/week injection	
Semaglutide	Ozempic	1/week injection	
Semaglutide	Rybelsus (oral)	Pill, without meals	

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6. SGLT2 Inhibitors – Lower the amount of sugar returned to the blood stream by the kidneys			
Canagliflozin	Invokana	Pill, before first meal	Bladder & genital infection Weight loss Can cause low blood pressure Lowers A1c by 1% to 2%
Dapagliflozin	Farxiga		
Empagliflozin	Jardiance		
Combination Medications – ACTOplus Met, Avandamet, Duetact, Glucovance, Invokamet, Metaglip, Janumet			