



TYPE 2 DIABETES MEDICATIONS

ORAL MEDICATIONS USED TO TREAT DIABETES	
Medication Class	How it works to lower blood sugar
Biguanides	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduces the amount of glucose made and released by the liver• Increases the body's sensitivity to insulin, so the body can respond better to its own insulin
Sulfonylureas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stimulates the pancreas to produce insulin throughout the entire day
Meglitinides	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stimulates the pancreas to produce insulin after meals only
Thiazolidinediones (TZDs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increases the body's sensitivity to insulin, so it can act more efficiently• Reduces glucose production in liver
Alpha-glucosidase inhibitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Slows the digestion of carbohydrates in the gut so that sugar is absorbed more slowly into the blood
DPP-4 inhibitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acts when sugars are high after a meal to cause your body to increase insulin levels which helps lower blood sugar, and decrease glucagon from the liver (<i>a hormone that raises blood sugar</i>)
SGLT2 inhibitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduces sugar levels in the body by decreasing reabsorption in the kidneys and increasing the amount of sugar you pass in your urine

INJECTABLE MEDICATIONS USED TO TREAT DIABETES	
Medication Class	How it works to lower blood sugar
GLP-1 agonists	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acts when sugars are high after a meal to increase insulin levels which helps lower blood sugar, and decrease glucagon (<i>a hormone that raises blood sugar</i>)



BASAL (LONG ACTING) INSULINS:

Types of basal insulins	How it works	Onset: how quickly it starts lowering your blood sugar	Duration: how long it lowers your blood sugar
Intermediate insulin	Taken usually once a day, basal insulin works in the background to keep your blood sugar under control throughout the entire day	1-3 hours	Up to 18 hours
Long acting insulin		1.5 hours	16 up to 42 hours product depending

BOLUS (MEAL-TIME) INSULINS:

Types of bolus insulins	How it works	Onset: how quickly it starts lowering your blood sugar	Duration: how long it lowers your blood sugar
Rapid acting insulin	Taken at meal-time, rapid acting insulin lowers blood sugar levels that get elevated after meals	5-15 minutes	3-5 hours
Short acting insulin		15-30 minutes	6.5 hours newer products can act longer

PRE-MIXED (COMBINATION OF BASAL AND BOLUS INSULINS):

Types of bolus insulins	How it works	Onset: how quickly it starts lowering your blood sugar	Duration: how long it lowers your blood sugar
Pre-mixed insulin	Taken usually twice a day, pre-mixed insulin lowers blood sugar from meals, and controls blood sugar throughout the entire day	10-15 minutes; or 30-60 minutes	Up to 18 hours