



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 |