

Oral Diabetes Medications (Pills)

| medication name | how it works | what to watch out for |
|---|---|---|
| Diabeta (glyburide) Diamicron (gliclazide) | triggers pancreas to release more insulin | low blood sugars weight gain with glyburide |
| Metformin (Glucophage) (Glumetza) | reduces amount of glucose (sugar) produced by the liver increases insulin sensitivity | stomach upset, diarrhea, nausea, bloating |
| GlucoNorm (repaglinide) | triggers pancreas to release more insulin | MUST be taken with food |
| Prandase (acarbose) | targets the digestive track to delay absorption of starch | flatulence (gas) rare bloating |
| Januvia (sitagliptin) Onglyza (saxagliptin) Trajenta (linagliptin) | triggers pancreas to release more insulin | may cause stomach discomfort and diarrhea |
| ◆ Invokana (canagliflozin) Forxiga (dapagliflozin) ◆ Jardiance (empagliflozin) | blocks the re-absorption of sugar in the kidneys ◆ also helps to protect the heart against heart disease | may cause yeast infections risk of dehydration |

Some types of diabetes medications are combined together in 1 pill, for convenience:

Janumet = Januvia + Metformin

Invokamet = Invokana + Metformin

Komboglyze = Onglyza + Metformin

Xigduo = Forxiga + Metformin

Jentadueto = Trajenta + Metformin

Injectable Diabetes Medications

| medication name | how it works | what to watch out for |
|--|--|-----------------------|
| ◆ Victoza (liraglutide) | triggers pancreas to release more insulin after meals slows digestion lowers appetite ◆ also helps to protect the heart against heart disease | Nausea, diarrhea |
| ◆ Ozempic (semaglutide) | | |
| Byetta (exenatide) | | |
| Trulicity (Dulaglutide) | | |
| Bydureon (Exenatide Extended Release) | | |

Know where to get support

Diabetes medications can be expensive. If you are having difficulty affording your medications, there are financial assistance programs available. Speak to your pharmacist or diabetes educator to learn more.

- 1 | **Ontario Drug Benefit Plan (ODB) – (for those age 65 and older)**
 - Includes coverage for most insulins, some diabetes pills and blood sugar test strips
 - t. 416.327.8109 | or, ask at your local pharmacy
- 2 | **Ministry of Health and Long Term Care – OHIP+ - (for those age 24 and younger)**
 - Includes the same supplies as ODB –insulin, diabetes pills and blood testing strips
 - t.1.866.532.3161 (Service Ontario)
- 3 | **Trillium Drug Plan – (for those age 65 and older)**
 - Income based, supports people who have high drug costs Vs their net household income
 - t. 1.800.575.5386 or 416.326.1558 | or, ask your pharmacy for an application
- 4 | **Monitoring for Health Program**
 - Anyone using insulin or who has gestational diabetes and receives no other coverage
 - 75% coverage for strips & lancets (\$820 max)
 - t. 1.800.361.0796
- 5 | **Syringes for Seniors – (for those age 65 and older)**
 - Helps cover costs of needles and syringes for insulin administration
 - \$125 per year grant to cover cost of needles or syringes
 - t. 1.800.268.6021