

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 produced by the liver increases insulin sensitivity	stomach upset, diarrhea, nausea, bloating
Prandase (acarbose)	targets the digestive track to delay absorption of starch	flatulence (gas) rare bloating
Januvia (sitagliptin) Onglyza (saxagliptin) Trajenta (linagliptin)	works when glucose rises after a meal trigger pancreas to release more insulin reduces amount of glucose produced by the liver	stomach discomfort and diarrhea
✦ Invokana (canagliflozin) Forxiga (dapagliflozin) ✦ Jardiance (empagliflozin)	blocks the re-absorption of glucose in the kidneys	may cause yeast infections risk of dehydration
✦ Rybelsus (semaglutide)	triggers pancreas to release more insulin after meals, slows digestion and lowers appetite	nausea, diarrhea speak with your pharmacist about how to take this medication

✦ This medication also helps to protect against heart disease

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

- **Janumet** – Januvia and Metformin
- **Komboglyze** – Onglyza and Metformin
- **Jentadueto** – Trajenta and Metformin
- **Invokamet** – Invokana and Metformin
- **Xigduo** – Forxiga and 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 and lowers appetite	nausea, diarrhea
✦ Ozempic (semaglutide)		
✦ Trulicity (dulaglutide)		

Some injectable diabetes medications are available in combination with insulin. These are:

- **Soliqua** (Insulin glargine and lixisenatide)
- **Xultophy** (Insulin degludec and liraglutide)

Know where to get support

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 25 to 64 years)**
 - Income based, supports people who have high drug costs compared to 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 (\$920 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
 - \$170 per year grant to cover cost of needles or syringes
 - t. 1.800.268.6021