

Diabetes Medications

Pills

Pill	Main Potential Side Effects	Notes
Glucophage (Metformin)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gas, diarrhea (usually goes away after 1-2 weeks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic Makes body more sensitive to insulin
Amaryl (Glimepiride) Glucotrol (Glipizide)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low blood sugar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic Makes pancreas produce insulin
Actos (Pioglitazone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swelling or fluid retention Worsens congestive heart failure Low blood sugar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic Makes body more sensitive to insulin
Januvia (Sitagliptin) Onglyza (Saxagliptin) Tradjenta (Linagliptin) Nesina (Alogliptin)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diarrhea Upset stomach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brand (check insurance coverage) Stimulates the pancreas to release insulin Makes the liver produce less sugar
Invokana (Canagliflozin) Farxiga (Dapagliflozin) Jardiance (Empagliflozin) Steglatro (Ertugliflozin) ===== Glyxambi (Empagliflozin + Linagliptin) Steglujan (Ertugliflozin + Sitagliptin)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequent urination Genital fungal or urinary infections Dehydration Diabetic Ketoacidosis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brand (check insurance coverage) Makes kidney waste sugar into urine Lowers sugar, blood pressure May lose weight
Rybelsus (Semaglutide)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nausea, diarrhea or constipation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brand (check insurance coverage) Taken on an empty stomach May lose weight
Cycloset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dizziness, fatigue, headache 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brand (check insurance coverage) Makes body more sensitive to insulin

Shots

Non-Insulin Shots (GLP-1 Agonists)

- Brand
- Decreases appetite, increases insulin after eating, slow bowel movement
- Main side effects: nausea, diarrhea, low sugar, injection site reaction
- Rarely cause pancreatitis; also linked rarely to pancreatic cancer
- Linked to thyroid cancer in rats (no human cases)

Medication	How Often
Byetta	2/day
Victoza	1/day
Bydureon	1/week
Ozempic	1/week
Trulicity	1 /week

Insulin Shots: Most people need both a **long**-acting insulin AND a **short**-acting insulin.

A. Long (or intermediate) -acting insulins: Keep sugar overall down, but cannot prevent sugar from rising after eating.

Tresiba pen*	Humulin N pen or vial (over the counter)
Levemir pen or vial*	Novolin N vial (over the counter, vial 1000 units \approx \$25 at Walmart)*
Lantus pen or vial	Humulin R U-500 pen or vial (acts as longer and shorter-acting; different from Humulin R U-100)
Basaglar pen	Soliqua 100/33 pen
Toujeo pen	Xultophy 100/3.6 pen

B. Short-acting insulins: Prevents sugar from going high after meals.

Humalog U-100 pen or vial	Novolog U-100 pen or vial*
Humalog U-200 pen	Insulin Aspart U-100 pen or vial*
Insulin Lispro U-100 pen or vial	Fiasp U-100 pen or vial*
Admelog U-100 pen or vial	Humulin R U-100 vial (over the counter; NOT Humulin R U-500)
Lyumjev U-100 pen or vial	Novolin R U-100 vial (over the counter, vial \approx \$25 at Walmart)*
Apidra U-100 pen or vial	

* The medications that are **marked with ***: You can buy 10 pens or 3 vials (i.e. same amount of insulin) for \$99 (\$10/pen) (\$33/vial). **No insurance** required.

<https://www.novocare.com/insulin/my99insulin.html>. OR just Google “**My \$99 insulin,**” answer 3 questions, print the **coupon** and take it to pharmacy with your **prescription**.

Insulin Main Side Effects:

1. **Weight gain** (you may gain the weight you lost when your sugar was not controlled)
2. **Hypoglycemia** (low blood sugar), which can result in headache, confusion, dizziness, blurred vision, fast heartbeat, sweating, tremor, coma or seizure.