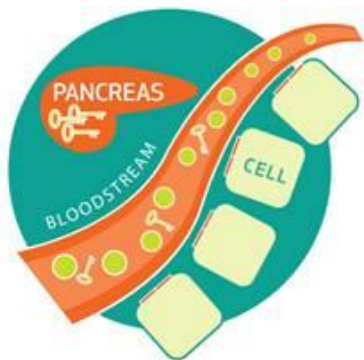


# Medications for Type 2 Diabetes



In Type 2 Diabetes the pancreas still makes insulin, but it does not make enough and/or the body is unable to use insulin properly (insulin resistance). Keys (insulin) are present, but cannot unlock the cell doors to let the sugar in.

There are only a few medications approved for use in type 2 diabetes in children and adolescents. These are metformin, liraglutide, and insulin.

Insulin is always given by shots. If you need insulin, your diabetes team will teach you how to use it.

## Metformin

A pill that is taken 1- 2 times every day.

**Other Common Names:** Glucophage, Glucophage XR

**How does it work?** Metformin brings down blood sugar by making insulin work better (decreasing insulin resistance) and causing the liver to make less sugar. It can take several days or even weeks before metformin works well.

**What if I miss a dose?** Take your dose as soon as you remember. If it is more than 2 hours from your missed dose, then skip the missed dose. DO NOT take 2 doses at the same time.

**Common Side Effects:** Loose stools/diarrhea, upset stomach, and gas.

These USUALLY GET BETTER if you keep taking your metformin. Try taking it with food. If the symptoms bother you a lot, ask about an extended release form.

**Serious Side Effects:** Rare risk of lactic acidosis – a form of too much acid in your blood. DON'T TAKE YOUR METFORMIN if you have a VOMITING/DIARRHEA illness.

**Surgery or Scan w/ Contrast:** If it is a scheduled procedure, stop metformin 24-48 hours before it is scheduled. You can restart metformin 24 hours after you recover from illness or procedure.

Call your doctor right away if you have fast breathing, fast heartbeat, shortness of breath, very bad belly pain, feeling very tired or weak, very bad dizziness, muscle pain or cramps.

**Does metformin cause low blood sugar?** No it cannot, but if you are on insulin it makes your insulin (and certain other diabetes medications) work better, and your insulin could cause a low blood sugar.

# Medications for Type 2 Diabetes

## Liraglutide

An injection that is taken once every day



**Other Common Names:** Victoza

**How does it work?** Liraglutide helps control blood glucose by telling your body to increase the amount of insulin it makes at times of eating, slows down digestion, helps your body feel full faster, and suppresses your liver from releasing glucagon. It can take several days or even weeks before liraglutide works well. Your doctor will likely start you on a low dose and increase it slowly.

**What if I miss a dose?** Take your dose as soon as you remember. If it is more than 8 hours from your next dose, then skip the missed dose. **DO NOT take 2 doses at the same time.**

**Common Side Effects:** Nausea, vomiting, weight loss, injection site reaction

**Serious Side Effects:** Rare risk of acute pancreatitis, gall bladder disease. Report signs of severe abdominal pain or vomiting. Stop the medication and call your doctor right away

**VICTOZA®** is contraindicated in patients with a personal or family history of MTC (Medullary Thyroid Carcinoma) or in patients with Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia syndrome type 2 (MEN 2)

## Other Medicines for Type 2 Diabetes

Here are some of the other types of medicines used to control blood sugars in **adults** with type 2 diabetes:

Type of Medication	Examples	How it changes blood sugar	Pills or Shots
Sulfonylurea	Glyburide, Glipizide	Makes more insulin	pills
Meglitinide	Repaglinide, Nateglinide	Makes more insulin	pills
GLP-1 agonist	Exenatide, albiglutide, liraglutide	Makes more insulin, slows down digestion	shots
DPP4 inhibitor	Sitagliptin, saxagliptin	Makes GLP-1 keep working	pills
SGLT2 inhibitor	Canagliflozin, dapagliflozin	Sugar goes out in urine	pills
Thiazolidinediones	Pioglitazone, Rosiglitazone	Makes insulin work better	pills

Fact (T) or Fiction (F)?	Knowledge Check!	
T F	It can take several days for diabetes medicines to work well.	
T F	You should stop your medicines if you have an upset stomach.	
T F	People with type 2 diabetes sometimes need insulin shots.	
T F	I should eat 100 carbs per meal	

T, F, T, F