

DRUGS FOR TREATING DIABETES

GENERIC NAME	BRAND NAMES	LOWERS HbA _{1c}	NOTES
Biguanide			
Metformin	Glucophage, Fortamet, Glumetza, Riomet	1% to 2%	First-line drug for Type 2 diabetes. Common early side effects include nausea and digestive disruption. Long-term treatment linked to vitamin B ₁₂ deficiency.
Sulfonylureas			
Glimepiride Glipizide Glyburide	Amaryl Glucotrol Diabeta, Micronase	1% to 2%	Common side effects include hypoglycemia and weight gain.
Meglitinides			
Repaglinide Nateglinide	Prandin Starlix	0.5% to 2%	Taken at mealtimes; dose should be skipped if meal is skipped.
Thiazolidinedione			
Pioglitazone	Actos	0.5% to 1.5%	Label warns of possible increased heart-attack risk and possible increased risk of bladder cancer if taken for more than a year.
DPP-4 inhibitors			
Sitagliptin Saxagliptin Linagliptin	Januvia Onglyza Tradjenta	About 0.5%	Low risk of hypoglycemia.
GLP-1 receptor agonists			
Exenatide Exenatide QW Liraglutide	Byetta Bydureon Victoza	0.5% to 1%	Taken by injection. May result in weight loss. Small doses at start may be necessary to reduce nausea.
Amylin analog			
Pramlintide	Symlin	N/A (enhances effect of insulin)	Taken by injection along with insulin. High risk of hypoglycemia if insulin doses are not reduced enough.
Alpha-glucosidase inhibitors			
Acarbose Miglitol	Precose Glyset	0.5% to 1%	Slow the digestion of complex carbohydrates. Tend to cause gastrointestinal side effects.
Bile acid sequestrant			
Colesevelam	Welchol	About 0.5%	Cholesterol-lowering drug, also approved to treat Type 2 diabetes.
Dopamine receptor agonist			
Bromocriptine quick-release	Cycloset	0.5% to 1%	May cause nausea as a side effect.
Basal insulins			
NPH insulin	Humulin N, Novolin N	Varies	Older, less expensive basal insulin. Lasts 10–12 hours, “peaks” at 4–6 hours.
Insulin glargine Insulin detemir	Lantus Levemir	Varies	Insulin analogs that last for 24 hours with almost no peak in most users.
Short- and rapid-acting insulins			
Regular insulin	Humulin R, Novolin R	Varies	Older, less expensive mealtime insulin. Usually requires injection 30–45 minutes before meals.
Insulin aspart Insulin lispro Insulin glulisine	NovoLog Humalog Apidra	Varies	Rapid-acting insulin analogs; can be taken 0–15 minutes before meals. Commonly used in insulin pumps.

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