



# MEDICATIONS

Staying up to date with the latest blood glucose-lowering medications is an important part of diabetes management. Check out our comprehensive chart to understand how your meds work, and keep the list handy for times when your health care provider suggests changes to your treatment plan.

DRUG CLASS	HOW IT PRIMARILY WORKS	GENERIC NAME	BRAND NAME	COST*
<b>TYPE 2 ORAL MEDICATIONS</b>				
<b>Biguanides</b> (generic available)	<b>Lowers the amount of glucose produced by the liver</b>	Metformin	Glucophage	Low
		Metformin extended release	Glucophage XR, Glumetza, Fortamet	
<b>Sulfonylureas</b> (generic available)	<b>Helps beta cells in the pancreas release more insulin</b>	Glimepiride	Amaryl	Low
		Glipizide	Glucotrol	
		Glipizide extended release	Glucotrol XL	
<b>Meglitinides</b> (generic available)		Nateglinide	Starlix	Moderate
		Repaglinide	Prandin	
<b>TZDs</b> (generic available)	<b>Helps insulin work better in muscle and fat cells. Lowers glucose production in the liver.</b>	Pioglitazone	Actos	Low
<b>Alpha-glucosidase inhibitors</b> (generic available)	<b>Blocks the enzymes that break down starches in the intestines</b>	Acarbose	Precose	Moderate
		Miglitol	Glyset	
<b>DPP-4 inhibitors</b> (generic available)	<b>Slows the inactivation of GLP-1, a compound in the body that lowers blood glucose levels</b>	Alogliptin	Nesina	High
		Linagliptin	Tradjenta	
		Saxagliptin	Onglyza	
		Sitagliptin	Januvia	
		Sitagliptin and metformin	Janumet	
		Sitagliptin and metformin extended release	Janumet XR	
<b>Bile acid sequestrants</b> (generic available)	<b>Lowers LDL cholesterol and blood glucose levels</b>	Colesevelam	Welchol	High
<b>Dopamine-2 agonists</b> (no generic available)	<b>Helps lower blood glucose levels after a meal</b>	Bromocriptine quick release	Cycloset	High

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DRUG CLASS	HOW IT PRIMARILY WORKS	GENERIC NAME	BRAND NAME	COST*
<b>SGLT-2 inhibitors</b> (no generic available)	Blocks glucose from being reabsorbed by the kidneys. Excess glucose is released in the urine.	Canagliflozin	Invokana	High
		Dapagliflozin	Farxiga	
		Empagliflozin	Jardiance	
		Ertugliflozin	Steglatro	
		Ertugliflozin and sitagliptin	Steglujan	
		Ertugliflozin and metformin	Segluromet	
<b>TYPE 2 INJECTED MEDICATIONS</b>				
<b>Amylin</b> (no generic available)	Slows food moving through the stomach. Also prescribed for type 1 diabetes.	Pramlintide acetate	Symlin	High
<b>GLP-1 receptor agonists</b> (no generic available)	Helps release insulin when blood glucose rises at mealtime, slow the absorption of mealtime glucose, and lower the amount of glucose produced by the liver	Dulaglutide	Trulicity	High
		Exenatide~	Byetta	
		Exenatide extended release~	Bydureon, Bydureon BCise	
		Liraglutide~	Victoza	
		Lixisenatide~	Adlyxin	
		Semaglutide	Ozempic	
<b>Insulin + GLP-1 receptor agonists</b> (no generic available)	Combines long-acting insulin with a GLP-1 receptor agonist. The insulin helps glucose enter the cells to be used as fuel. The GLP-1 receptor agonist helps release insulin when blood glucose is high and lower the amount of glucose produced by the liver.	Insulin glargine/ lixisenatide~	Soliqua 100/33	High
		Insulin degludec/ liraglutide^	Xultophy 100/3.6	

**KEY:**

\*Cost is based on the lowest-priced drug in its class. Low-cost drugs are less than \$1 per day. Medium-cost drugs are between \$1 and \$2 per day. High-cost drugs are more than \$2 per day. There is much variation in cost, even within drug classes.

^This drug is not recommended for use in conjunction with additional basal insulin therapy.

~This drug is not recommended for use in conjunction with mealtime (bolus) insulin therapy.

**Side Effects:** Each medication has its own side effects; read labels carefully to be sure you know what they are. The sulfonylureas chlorpropamide (Diabinese), glyburide (Glynase and Diabeta), and tolazamide, and the TZD rosiglitazone (Avandia), are available but rarely prescribed.

**Heart Benefits:** Medications in the SGLT-2 inhibitor or GLP-1 receptor agonist class may offer heart benefits for people with cardiovascular disease. Talk to your doctor about your options and whether switching to one of these drugs may help you.

**Oral Combination Therapy:** Because the drugs listed in this chart act in different ways to lower blood glucose levels, providers will often prescribe multiple drugs. A doctor might prescribe both a biguanide and a sulfonylurea, for instance. Several of the more popular combinations of oral drugs are available in a single pill.



## MEDICATIONS

GENERIC NAME	BRAND NAME	MANUFACTURER	FORM	DELIVERY	ONSET	PEAK	DURATION
<b>RAPID-ACTING INSULIN</b>							
<b>Insulin aspart</b>	<b>Fiasp</b>	Novo Nordisk	Analog	Syringe or pen	2.5 min.	50 to 70 min.	About 5 hours
<b>Insulin aspart</b>	<b>NovoLog</b>	Novo Nordisk	Analog	Syringe, pen, or pump	10 to 20 min.	40 to 50 min.	3 to 5 hours
<b>Insulin glulisine</b>	<b>Apidra</b>	Sanofi	Analog	Syringe, pen, or pump	10 to 20 min.	30 to 90 min.	2 to 4 hours
<b>Insulin human</b> (inhaled powder)	<b>Afrezza</b>	MannKind	Human	Inhaler with 4-, 8-, and 12-unit cartridges	12 min.	35 to 55 min.	1.5 to 4.5 hours
<b>Insulin lispro</b> (also available in U-200*)	<b>Humalog</b>	Eli Lilly	Analog	Syringe, pen, or pump	10 to 20 min.	30 to 90 min.	3 to 5 hours
<b>Insulin lispro</b>	<b>Admelog</b>	Sanofi	Analog	Syringe, pen, or pump	15 to 30 min.	2 hours	Up to 7 hours
<b>SHORT-ACTING INSULIN</b>							
<b>Regular</b>	<b>Humulin R*</b>	Eli Lilly	Human	Syringe	30 min.	2 to 4 hours	5 to 8 hours
<b>Regular</b>	<b>Novolin R, ReliOn Novolin R</b> (Walmart)	Novo Nordisk	Human	Syringe	30 min.	1 to 3 hours	Up to 8 hours
<b>INTERMEDIATE-ACTING INSULIN</b>							
<b>NPH</b>	<b>Humulin N</b>	Eli Lilly	Human	Syringe or pen	1 to 3 hours	4 to 12 hours	Up to 24 hours
<b>NPH</b>	<b>Novolin N, ReliOn Novolin N</b> (Walmart)	Novo Nordisk	Human	Syringe	1 to 2 hours	4 to 12 hours	Up to 24 hours
<b>LONG-ACTING INSULIN</b>							
<b>Insulin detemir</b>	<b>Levemir</b>	Novo Nordisk	Analog	Syringe or pen	1.6 hours	No peak	Up to 24 hours
<b>Insulin glargine</b>	<b>Lantus</b>	Sanofi	Analog	Syringe or pen	1 hour	No peak	24 hours
<b>Insulin glargine</b>	<b>Basaglar</b>	Eli Lilly	Analog	Pen	1 hour	No peak	24 hours

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GENERIC NAME	BRAND NAME	MANUFACTURER	FORM	DELIVERY	ONSET	PEAK	DURATION
<b>ULTRA-LONG-ACTING INSULIN</b>							
<b>Insulin degludec</b> (also available in U-200*)	<b>Tresiba</b>	Novo Nordisk	Analog	Pen	1 hour	No peak	At least 42 hours
<b>Insulin glargine</b> (U-300*)	<b>Toujeo</b>	Sanofi	Analog	Pen	6 hours	No peak	36 hours
<b>INSULIN MIXTURES</b>							
<b>50% lispro protamine (NPL)/ 50% insulin lispro</b>	<b>Humalog Mix 50/50</b>	Eli Lilly	Analog	Syringe or pen	10 to 15 min.	Varies	16 to 22 hours
<b>75% lispro protamine (NPL)/ 25% insulin lispro</b>	<b>Humalog Mix 75/25</b>	Eli Lilly	Analog	Syringe or pen	10 to 15 min.	Varies	16 to 22 hours
<b>70% aspart protamine/30% insulin aspart</b>	<b>NovoLog Mix 70/30*</b>	Novo Nordisk	Analog	Syringe or pen	10 to 20 min.	2 to 4 hours	Up to 24 hours
<b>70% NPH/ 30% Regular</b>	<b>Humulin 70/30</b>	Eli Lilly	Human	Syringe or pen	30 to 60 min.	Varies	12 to 16 hours
<b>70% NPH/ 30% Regular</b>	<b>Novolin 70/30*, ReliOn Novolin 70/30</b> (Walmart)	Novo Nordisk	Human	Syringe	30 min.	3 to 6 hours	Up to 24 hours
<b>LESS COMMONLY USED INSULIN</b>							
<b>Regular U-500</b>	<b>Humulin R U-500*</b>	Eli Lilly	Human	Syringe or pen	30 min.	4 to 8 hours	Up to 24 hours

\*Note the difference between Humulin R and Humulin R U-500.

Note the difference between NovoLog Mix 70/30 (70% aspart protamine/30% insulin aspart) and Novolin 70/30 (70% NPH/30% Regular). U-100, U-200, U-300, and U-500 are different concentrations of insulin.

