

Common Oral Diabetes Meds



Class/Main Action	Name(s)	Daily Dose Range	Considerations
Biguanides - Decreases hepatic glucose output - First line med at diagnosis of type 2	metformin (Glucophage)	500 - 2550 mg (usually BID w/ meal)	Side effects: nausea, bloating, diarrhea, B12 deficiency. To minimize GI Side effects, use XR and take w/ meals. Obtain GFR before starting. - If GFR <30, do not use. - If GFR <45, don't start Metformin - If pt on Metformin and GFR falls to 30-45, eval risk vs. benefit; consider decreasing dose. For dye study, if GFR <60, liver disease, alcoholism or heart failure, restart metformin after 48 hours if renal function stable. Benefits: lowers cholesterol, no hypo or weight gain, cheap. Approved for pediatrics, 10 yrs + Lowers A1c 1.0%-2.0%.
	Riomet (liquid metformin)	500 - 2550 mg 500mg/5mL	
	Extended Release-XR (Glucophage XR) (Glumetza) (Fortamet)	(1x daily w/dinner) 500 – 2000 mg 500 – 2000 mg 500 – 2500 mg	
Sulfonylureas Stimulates sustained insulin release	glyburide: (Diabeta)	1.25 – 20 mg	Can take once or twice daily before meals. Low cost generic. Side effects: hypoglycemia and weight gain. Eliminated via kidney. Caution: Glyburide most likely to cause hypoglycemia. Lowers A1c 1.0% – 2.0%.
	(Glynase PresTabs)	0.75 – 12 mg	
	glipizide: (Glucotrol) (Glucotrol XL)	2.5 – 40 mg 2.5 – 20 mg	
	glimepiride (Amaryl)	1.0 – 8 mg	

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SGLT2 Inhibitors “Glucoretic” Decreases glucose reabsorption in kidneys	Canagliflozin* (Invokana)	100 - 300 mg 1x daily	Side effects: hypotension, UTIs, genital infections, increased urination, weight loss, ketoacidosis. Heart Failure, CV & Kidney Protection: 1st line therapy for Heart Failure (HF), Kidney Disease (CKD), Cardiovascular Disease, before or with metformin. Considerations: See Package Insert (PI) for GFR cut-offs, dosing. Limited BG lowering effect if GFR < 45, still benefits kidneys & heart at lower GFR. If CKD & GFR ≥20, use SGLT-2 to reduce CVD, HF, preserve renal function. (ADA/EASD) Benefits: SGLT-2s* reduce BG, CV death & HF, slow CKD. †Approved for peds, 10 yrs +. Lowers A1C 0.6% to 1.5%.
	Dapagliflozin*† (Farxiga)	5 - 10 mg 1x daily	
	Empagliflozin*† (Jardiance)	10 - 25 mg 1x daily	
	Ertugliflozin (Steglatro)	5 – 15 mg 1x daily	
	Bexagliflozin (Brenzavvy)	20 mg 1x daily	
DPP – 4 Inhibitors “Incretin Enhancers” - Prolongs action of gut hormones - Increases insulin secretion - Delays gastric emptying	sitagliptin (Januvia)	25 - 100 mg daily – eliminated via kidney*	*If creat elevated, see med insert for dosing. Side effects: headache and flu-like symptoms. Can cause severe, disabling joint pain. Contact MD, stop med. Report signs of pancreatitis. †Alogliptin can increase risk of heart failure. Notify MD for shortness of breath, edema, weakness, etc. No wt gain or hypoglycemia. Lowers A1c 0.6%-0.8%.
	linagliptin (Tradjenta)	5 mg daily – eliminated via feces	
	alogliptin (Nesina)†	6.25 - 25 mg daily – eliminated via kidney*	