

Oral Drugs for Type 2

Class	Generic Name	Available as a Generic	Brand Names	Comments/Cautions
Alpha-glucosidase Inhibitors	acarbose	yes	Precose	<p>Target: Lowers your blood glucose by slowing the digestion of carbohydrates. Use: Take with the first bite of each meal.</p> <p>Advantages: Acarbose and miglitol normally do not cause weight gain. Acarbose does not cause hypoglycemia. Side effects: Gas, bloating, and diarrhea. Ask your doctor about starting with a low dose and building up slowly. Caution: Don't take an alpha-glucosidase inhibitor if you have inflammatory bowel disease, other intestinal diseases, or obstructions. Acarbose and miglitol don't cause hypoglycemia when used alone. When used with certain other diabetes medications, low blood glucose can occur. In these cases, treat hypoglycemia with pure glucose, such as glucose tablets, glucose gels, or fruit juice. Acarbose and miglitol delay the breakdown of many other carbohydrates, so those carbs should not be used to treat low blood glucose.</p>
	miglitol	no	Glyset	
Biguanides	metformin	yes	Glucophage	<p>Target: Decreases liver's glucose production and slightly increases muscle glucose uptake. Use: To minimize side effects, take with meals.</p> <p>Advantages: Metformin does not cause weight gain. It does not cause hypoglycemia when used alone. Extended-release metformin is taken once daily and may result in fewer gastrointestinal side effects. Side effects: Common side effects when starting metformin are nausea, diarrhea, or loss of appetite, but these usually subside within a few weeks. To minimize side effects, ask your doctor about starting with a low dose and building up slowly. Caution: Lactic acidosis is a rare but serious side effect. Metformin may not be right for you if you have kidney problems or severe respiratory problems, are 80 or older, are taking medication for heart failure, have a history of liver disease, drink alcohol excessively (binge drinking), or are hospitalized. If you are scheduled for any medical testing, radiology, or surgical procedures for which you will have to fast or have an iodinated dye injected into your veins, you must inform medical personnel that you are taking metformin.</p>
	metformin (extended release)	yes	Glucophage XR, Glumetza, Fortamet	
	metformin (liquid)	no	Riomet	
DPP-4 Inhibitors	sitagliptin	no	Januvia	<p>Target: Increases insulin production and decreases the liver's production of glucose. Use: Take once daily with or without food. Advantages: Does not cause weight gain. Side effects: May occasionally cause stomach discomfort and diarrhea. Caution: If you have kidney problems, your doctor may prescribe lower doses. Your doctor may do blood tests from time to time to see how well your kidneys are working.</p>
Meglitinides	nateglinide	no	Starlix	<p>Target: Increases insulin production by the pancreas. Use: Take at start of meals. Advantages: Does not cause weight gain. May decrease risk of hypoglycemia between meals and overnight compared to sulfonylureas. Side effects: Can cause low blood glucose. Caution: Skip the dose if you skip a meal.</p>
	repaglinide	no	Prandin	
Sulfonylureas	glimepiride	yes	Amaryl	<p>Target: Increases insulin production by the pancreas. Use: Take once daily with breakfast or the first meal of the day. Advantages: May be used with or without insulin. Side effects: Can cause hypoglycemia. Caution: Should be used with caution by people with impaired kidney and liver function.</p>
	glipizide	yes	Glucotrol	<p>Target: Increases insulin production by the pancreas. Use: Take once or twice daily before a meal. Side effects: Can cause hypoglycemia. Caution: Should be used with caution by people with impaired kidney and liver function.</p>

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Sulfonylureas <i>continued</i>	glipizide (long-acting)	yes	Glucotrol XL	Target: Increases insulin production by the pancreas. Use: Take once daily before a meal. Side effects: Can cause low blood glucose. Caution: Glucotrol XL's action in the body may be altered in people with impaired kidney or liver function.
	glyburide	yes	DiaBeta, Micronase	Target: Increases insulin production by the pancreas. Use: Take once or twice daily before a meal. Side effects: Can cause hypoglycemia. Caution: Effects may last entire day. May not be suitable for patients with kidney disease.
	glyburide (micronized)	yes	Glynase, PresTab	Target: Increases insulin production by the pancreas. Use: Take once or twice daily before a meal. Side effects: These drugs can cause hypoglycemia.
	chlorpropamide	yes	Diabinese	Target: Increases insulin production by the pancreas. Use: Take once or twice daily before a meal. Advantages: Longest-acting drug in this class. Side effects: Has a higher potential to cause hypoglycemia. Caution: Not recommended for the elderly or those with kidney disease. May cause low blood sodium, jaundice, and skin rash.
Thiazolidinediones (TZDs)	pioglitazone	no	Actos	Target: Decreases insulin resistance at the muscle and liver. Use: It typically takes 4 to 6 weeks to see an effect on blood glucose. Advantages: May improve HDL ("good") cholesterol and triglycerides. Side effects: Can cause weight gain and fluid retention. Caution: These drugs can cause heart failure. People with heart failure and those at risk for heart failure should not take these drugs. Note: Avandia carries a potential increased risk of heart attack. Have liver function checked prior to starting these medications and periodically throughout your treatment. Call your doctor right away if you have any symptoms of liver damage, such as nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue, jaundice, loss of appetite, or dark urine. These medications may cause women who are not ovulating and haven't gone through menopause to begin ovulating again, enabling them to conceive. Oral contraceptives may be less effective when taking these medications.
	rosiglitazone	no	Avandia	
Combination Pills	metformin + glyburide	yes	Glucovance	See comments and cautions for each drug in the combination, listed separately above.
	metformin + rosiglitazone	no	Avandamet	
	metformin + glipizide	yes	Metaglip	
	metformin + pioglitazone	no	Actoplus Met	
	metformin + sitagliptin	no	Janumet	
	metformin + repaglinide	no	PrandiMet	
	pioglitazone + glimepiride	no	Duetact	
	rosiglitazone + glimepiride	no	Avandaryl	