

Medicines for type 2 diabetes

All diabetes medicines work to lower blood sugar. Each kind of diabetes medicine works in a different way. Sometimes more than one medicine is needed. Talk with your healthcare provider to learn more about your medicines.

Diabetes pills

Biguanides lower the amount of sugar your liver makes and help sugar be absorbed by muscles

Sulfonylureas (SUs) help your body release more insulin

DPP-4 Inhibitors (dipeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitors) help your body release more insulin when your blood sugar is high, especially after a meal

Thiazolidinediones (TZDs) lower the amount of sugar your liver makes and help insulin work better in several parts of the body

Meglitinides help your body release more insulin when you eat

Alpha-Glucosidase Inhibitors (starch blockers) slow the breakdown of some starchy foods, such as bread, potatoes, pasta, or table sugar

Insulin

If pills alone don't work, your provider may have you take insulin. It is taken by shots

Other diabetes medicines (taken by shots)

Amylin Agonists work with your body's own insulin to control your blood sugar, especially after meals

Incretins help the body release more of its own insulin

- All medicines can have side effects.
- Do not start or stop taking any medicine without talking to your provider first.
- Over time, your provider may ask you to:
 - Take more of the same medicine
 - Change your medicine to a new one
 - Add another medicine

Talk with your healthcare provider about what medicine works for you.