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 doctor to learn more about your medicines.

**Diabetes pills**

**Biguanides** lower the amount of sugar your liver makes

*Your medicine:*

**Sulfonylureas** (SUs) help your body release more insulin

*Your medicine:*

**DPP-4 Inhibitors** (Dipeptidyl Peptidase-4 Inhibitors) help your body release more insulin when your blood sugar is high, especially after a meal

*Your medicine:*

**Thiazolidinediones** (TZDs) help insulin work better

*Your medicine:*

**Meglitinides** help your body release more insulin when you eat

*Your medicine:*

**Starch Blockers** (Alpha-Glucosidase Inhibitors) slow the breakdown of some foods, such as bread, potatoes, pasta, or table sugar

*Your medicine:*

**Insulin**

If pills alone don’t work, your doctor may have you take insulin. It is usually taken by shots, but there is also a kind that is inhaled through your mouth.

**Other diabetes medicines (taken by shots)**

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

*Your medicine:*

**Incretins** help the body release more of its own insulin

*Your medicine:*

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**Remember:**

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

*Talk with your doctor about what medicine is best for you.*