

GENERIC NAME	TRADE NAME	DOSAGE SIZE/STRENGTH	MIN-MAX DAILY DOSE
BIGUANIDES			
Metformin	Glucophage	500mg, 850mg	500–3,000mg
	Metformin Oral solution	500mg per 5ml	500–3,000mg
Metformin prolonged release	Glucophage SR	500mg, 750mg, 1,000mg	500–2,000mg
SULPHONYLUREAS			
Glibenclamide	Glibenclamide	2.5mg, 5mg	2.5–15mg
Gliclazide	Diamicon	80mg	40–320mg
	Diamicon MR	30mg	30–120mg
Glimepiride	Amaryl	1mg, 2mg, 3mg, 4mg	1–6mg
Glipizide	Minodiab	5mg	5–20mg
Tolbutamide	Tolbutamide	500mg	500–2,000mg
PRANDIAL GLUCOSE REGULATORS			
Nateglinide	Starlix	60mg, 120mg, 180mg	60–540mg
Repaglinide	Prandin	0.5mg, 1mg, 2mg	0.5–16mg
ALPHA-GLUCOSIDASE INHIBITORS			
Acarbose	Glucobay	50mg, 100mg	50–600mg
THIAZOLIDINEDIONES (GLITAZONES)			
Pioglitazone	Actos	15mg, 30mg, 45mg	15–45mg alone, or in dual or triple therapy, or with insulin
INCRETIN MIMETICS (GLP-1 RECEPTOR AGONISTS)			
Exenatide	Byetta	5mcg, 10mcg (injection pens)	10–20mcg
Liraglutide	Victoza	Injection pen: selection of 0.6mg, 1.2mg, 1.8mg	0.6mg starting dose, then 1.2mg, then 1.8mg
Dulaglutide	Trulicity	0.75mg, 1.5mg in pre-filled pens & syringes	weekly 0.75mg (monotherapy) 1.5mg (add-on)
Albiglutide	Eperzan	30mg powder plus solvent for injection	weekly 30mg

WHEN TAKEN	TIMES PER DAY	POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS (MOST COMMON LISTED FIRST)*
BIGUANIDES		
With or after food	2–3 times	All forms of metformin have the same possible side effects: nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhoea, anorexia/loss of appetite, metallic taste (these often wear off after initial stages of treatment), allergic skin reactions, build-up of lactic acid in the blood, reduced absorption of vitamin B12, liver function problems. Prolonged-release formulation may improve tolerance. Products listed below containing metformin may also have these side effects.
During or after meals	2–3 times	
With, or after, evening meals if once. Breakfast and evening meal if twice. Swallow whole	Once (dose can be split if not tolerated or glycaemic control still inadequate)	
SULPHONYLUREAS		
With or immediately after breakfast or first main meal of the day	Once	Hypoglycaemia. Nausea, vomiting, heartburn, anorexia, diarrhoea, metallic taste, increased appetite, weight gain. Allergic skin reactions, sensitivity to light. Blood disorders, water retention, hyponatraemia, liver function problems.
According to the main meals of the day	Twice	Hypoglycaemia. Liver function problems. Nausea, indigestion/heartburn, diarrhoea, constipation, abdominal pain, vomiting, metallic taste, increased appetite, weight gain. Headache, allergic skin reactions. Blood disorders, water retention, hyponatraemia.
Take with water at breakfast. Swallow whole	Once	
Shortly before or with first main meal	Once	Hypoglycaemia. Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, bloating, liver function problems. Blood disorders. Allergic skin reactions. Hyponatraemia, jaundice. Sensitivity to light, visual disturbances, Allergic reactions.
Before food	1–2 times	Hypoglycaemia. Dizziness, drowsiness, headache, tremor, visual disturbances. Jaundice, liver function problems. Nausea, diarrhoea, constipation, abdominal pain. Confusion, blood disorders. Sensitivity to light, allergic skin reactions.
With or immediately after food	1–3 times	Hypoglycaemia. Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, constipation, loss of appetite, weight gain. Liver function problems, blood disorders. Allergic skin reactions, headache, jaundice. Tinnitus, tingling, increased sensitivity to light, intolerance to alcohol, allergic reactions.
PRANDIAL GLUCOSE REGULATORS		
Up to 30 minutes before meals	Up to 3 times	Hypoglycaemia. Allergic skin reactions. Liver function problems, gastrointestinal complaints (eg abdominal pain, indigestion, diarrhoea). Headache, Respiratory infections.
Usually within 15 minutes prior to main meals, but up to 30 minutes before	Up to 4 times	Hypoglycaemia. Abdominal pain, diarrhoea. Cardiovascular disease. Allergic reactions. Vomiting, constipation. Visual disturbances, abnormal liver function, increased liver enzymes, nausea, hypersensitivity.
ALPHA-GLUCOSIDASE INHIBITORS		
Chewed with first mouthful of food, or swallowed whole with water directly before	3 times	Flatulence, diarrhoea, gastrointestinal and abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, indigestion, increase in liver enzymes, jaundice. Oedema, thrombocytopenia. Allergic reactions (rash, erythema, exanthema, urticaria).
THIAZOLIDINEDIONES (GLITAZONES)		
With or without food	Once	Visual disturbance, weight gain, upper respiratory tract infection. Numbness, increased risk of distal bone fractures in women. Insomnia, sinusitis, liver function problems. In combination with other antidiabetic medicines: oedema, heart failure, joint pain, anaemia, erectile dysfunction, blood in urine, flatulence, dizziness, bronchitis, headache. Appetite increase, vertigo, heart failure, sweating, glucose in urine, protein in urine, blood creatinine phosphokinase increase, hypoglycaemia, back pain, shortness of breath.
INCRETIN MIMETICS (GLP-1 RECEPTOR AGONISTS)		
Within 60 minutes prior to the two main meals of the day, approx 6 hours apart	Twice	Nausea, hypoglycaemia (in combination with sulphonylureas), vomiting, diarrhoea, dizziness. Headache, decreased appetite, feeling jittery. Abdominal pain, bloating, indigestion, sweating, weakness, heartburn. Injection-site reactions, skin and general allergic reactions.
Once a day, at any time, independent of meals, around same time of day	Once	Gastrointestinal adverse reactions (including nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea). Risk of hypoglycaemia (in combination with sulphonylureas or a basal insulin), nasopharyngitis, bronchitis. Decreased appetite, headache, dizziness, constipation, abdominal discomfort.
Any time, with/without meals	Weekly	Gastrointestinal adverse reactions (including nausea, vomiting)
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