



Types of Diabetes Pills and How They Work

You may need a diabetes pill if your blood sugar is still high even after changing your diet, losing weight, or increasing your exercise.

There are different types of diabetes pills. Many people need more than one type of pill or need a combination of pills and insulin shots.

The information below can help you to understand how different diabetes pills work. The brand name is followed by the generic name in parentheses.

Helps your body make more insulin:

Glucotrol (glipizide)

Diabeta (glyburide)

Micronase (glyburide)

Amaryl (glimepiride)

Glynase (glyburide)

Diabinase (chlorpropamide)

Keeps your liver from letting too much sugar out into your blood:

Glucophage (metformin)

Slows down how quickly sugars are taken up as you eat:

Precose (acarbose)

Glyset (miglitol)

Tells your body to make more insulin as you eat:

Prandin (repaglinide)

Starlix (nateglinide)

(over, please.)

Helps your muscles remove extra sugar from your blood:

Avandia (rosiglitazone)

Actos (pioglitazone)

Combination pills

You may also be taking a “combination pill.” Look at the generic names to the right to learn about these pill combinations:

Glucovanc = glyburide + metformin

Metaglip = glipizide + metformin

Avandamet = rosiglitazone + metformin

Janumet = sitagliptin + metformin

Prandimet = repaglinide + metformin

Duetact = pioglitazone + glimepiride

Controls insulin levels after you eat

Januvia (sitagliptin)

Onglyza (saxagliptin)

Tradjenta (linagliptin)

Source: Indiana Chronic Disease Management Program