

Type 2 Diabetes Medications

	Class Name	Drugs [Brand name]	Comments
Increase Insulin Sensitivity	Biguanides	METFORMIN [Glucophage]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great drug. Should be first line. If additional therapy is needed, choose from others in this table. • Cheap drug • A1c reduction 1.5-2% • GI upset is common. Lactic acidosis is very rare. • Ok to use in CKD for eGFR > 45 (may be even in 30-45 group) • Risk of B12 deficiency • Commonly held prior to IV iodinated contrast
	Thiazolidine-diazones (TZDs)	Rosiglitazone [Avandia] Pioglitazone [Actos]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questionable risk of cardiac events. • Increased risk of fluid overload / heart failure • Causes weight gain (5-10 lbs) • Monitor for hepatotoxicity • Actos → Possible increase risk of Bladder cancer • Avandia → increased triglyceride and heart attacks
Increase serum insulin	Sulfonylurea	Glipizide Glyburide Glimepiride [Amaryl]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase insulin release from pancreas • A1c reduction 1-2% • Watch out for hypoglycemia!
	Insulin	Long acting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glargine [Lantus] • Detemir [Levemir] • Degludec [Tresiba] Short: Lispro, aspart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually only safe choice in pregnancy. Metformin may be ok as well
	GLP-1 receptor agonists	Exenatide [Byetta] Liraglutide [Victoza] Dulaglutide [Trulicity]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GLP agonists increase insulin release. DPP-4 quickly degrades endogenous GLP • A1c reduction 0.5-1% • Decrease gastric motility → nausea and weight loss • Trulicity → weekly injection
	DDP-4 inhibitors	Sitagliptin [Januvia] Linagliptin [Tradjenta]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase endogenous GLP-1 • A1c reduction of 0.74% • Weight neutral • Increased risk of infection & headache
Non-insulin related glucose reduction	SGLT-2 inhibitors	Empagliflozin [Jardiance]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Block glucose reuptake in kidneys • Mild weight loss and risk of hypoglycemia • Euglycemic ketoacidosis, UTI, candida vaginitis
	Alpha-glucosidase	acarbose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rarely used in USA. • Slows starch absorption. Causes flatulence
Injectables			