

Biguanide

Type of drug	Biguanide
How does it work?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps lower the amount of sugar (glucose) that your liver releases into the blood • Helps make it easier for your body to use insulin
Typical names	Metformin (Glucophage®), Long Acting Metformin (Glumetza®)
Usual doses	Metformin 500 to 2550 mg in single or divided doses
Dosing instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total daily dose is usually divided, and taken with food, for regular release metformin • Take once a day for long acting metformin, usually with evening meal
What if I forget a dose?	Ask your healthcare provider
A1C lowering (↓ = least, ↓↓↓ = most)	↓↓
Effect on weight	Neutral
Risk of low blood sugar (hypoglycemia)	Rare
Medication considerations and/or side effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stomach upset such as, gas, diarrhea, and/or constipation (These side effects often improve over time and can be minimized by starting with a lower dose, then increasing it slowly to the desired dose)
When to call your doctor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are not tolerating the side effects, have developed kidney or liver complications or are being scheduled for tests involving radioactive dye (e.g. bone scans or kidney x-rays) • You develop any severe side effects and any negative changes in your overall health, talk to your health care provider
When you are sick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are sick, vomiting, have diarrhea, or cannot drink enough fluids, you should stop this medication until these symptoms go away • Check your blood sugar levels more often, and drink lots of fluids so you do not become dehydrated
Cost (\$ = lowest, \$\$\$\$ = highest)	\$