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CHAPTER 5.

Clinical Guideline for Pharmacological Management of Adults With Type 2 Diabetes

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Objective: The objective of the Joslin Diabetes Center Clinical Guideline for Pharmacological Management of Adults with Type 2 Diabetes is to support clinical practice, influence clinical behavior to improve outcomes, and to assure quality of care according to accepted standards. The guideline was established after careful review of current evidence, literature, and clinical practice. This guideline is reviewed periodically and modified to reflect changes in clinical practice and available pharmacological information.

This guideline is not intended to serve as a mandatory standard, but rather to provide a set of recommendations for patient care management. These recommendations are not a substitute for sound and reasonable clinical judgment or decision making and do not exclude other options. Clinical care must be individualized to the specific needs of each patient and interventions must be tailored accordingly. The guideline has been created to address initial presentations and treatment strategies in the adult nonpregnant patient population. The guideline is not a substitution for full prescribing information. Refer to Joslin's Clinical Guideline for Adults with Diabetes (Chapter 1) as well as Joslin's Guideline for the Care of Older Adults With Diabetes (Chapter 4) for additional, more comprehensive information on diabetes care and management.

5.1.0 DIABETES MELLITUS: DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA (NONPREGNANT ADULTS)

- Random plasma glucose (PG) ≥ 200 mg/dl and symptoms of diabetes (polyuria, polydipsia, ketoacidosis, or unexplained weight loss) **or**
- Glycated hemoglobin (A1C) $\geq 6.5\%$ ^a **or**
- Fasting plasma glucose ≥ 126 mg/dl **or**
- Results of a 2-hour 75-g oral glucose tolerance test ≥ 200 mg/dL at 2 hours

^aOnly an A1C test that has been referenced to an accepted laboratory method (standardized) should be utilized for diagnostic purposes. Consider evaluation for hemoglobin variant if A1C is discordant from PG values.

^bThese tests should be confirmed by a repeat test, on a different day, unless unequivocally high.

5.2.0 GOALS OF GLYCEMIC CONTROL FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DIABETES (TABLE 1)

TABLE 1.

Biochemical Index	Normal	Goal ¹
FPG or preprandial glucose (mg/dL)	<100	80-130
2 hours postprandial glucose (mg/dL)	<140	<180 [2C]
Bedtime glucose (mg/dL)	<120	90-150
A1C (%) sustained	<6%	<7% [1A] A1C target goal should be individualized for each patient. A goal of <7% is chosen as a practical level for most patients to reduce the risk of complications. Achieving normal blood glucose and A1C is recommended, if it can be done practically and safely. Less stringent goals may be considered for older adults or those with advanced comorbidities (see Joslin's Guideline for Older Adults With Diabetes, Chapter 4).

See notes to table on SP259

A1C indicates glycated hemoglobin; FPG, fasting plasma glucose. mg/dL

5.3.0 INITIAL TREATMENT STRATEGY (FIGURE)

5.3.1 Advancing antidiabetes medications:

TABLE 2. Considerations for Selecting Noninsulin Glucose-Lowering Medications

Start With Metformin Unless Contraindicated [1B]
<p>Action: Decreases hepatic glucose production, increases GLP-1 secretion. Use as initial therapy unless contraindicated.</p> <p>Adverse effects: Gas, diarrhea, lactic acidosis; B-12 deficiency (long-term). Initiate at low dose, increase dose slowly and take with food to decrease gas, diarrhea. Extended release formulation may decrease gastrointestinal symptoms.</p> <p>Dosing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metformin is contraindicated in patients with an estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) below 30 mL/minute/1.73 m². Starting metformin in patients with an eGFR <45 mL/min is not recommended. Obtain eGFR at least annually in all patients taking metformin. In patients at increased risk for renal impairment, such as the elderly, assess renal function more frequently. If eGFR later falls below 45 mL/min, assess benefits and risks of continuing treatment. Discontinue metformin if eGFR later falls below 30 mL/min. Discontinue metformin at time of or before an iodinated contrast imaging procedure if eGFR is 30-60 mL/min; in patients with a history of liver disease, alcoholism, or heart failure; or who will undergo intra-arterial iodinated contrast. Re-evaluate eGFR 48 hours after the imaging procedure; restart metformin if renal function is back to baseline level.

table continued SP256

5.4.0 CONSIDERATIONS FOR SELECTING NONINSULIN GLUCOSE-LOWERING MEDICATIONS

5.4.1 First-line add-on to metformin or use as monotherapy if metformin is contraindicated: see table SP256

5.5.0 PREFERRED CONSIDERATIONS IN PATIENTS WITH T2D AND ESTABLISHED CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

TABLE 3. Preferred Considerations in Patients With T2D and Established Cardiovascular Disease

Clinical Setting	History of ASCVD	History of HF
Consider drugs with CV safety and superiority	GLP-1 RA with evidence to reduce CVD events (eg, liraglutide [1B], semaglutide)	SGLT2 inhibitors with evidence to reduce HF and mortality, (eg, empagliflozin [1B], canagliflozin)
Other considerations and caveats	Avoid use with advancing CKD Recent data indicate a small increase in biliary disease and need for cholecystectomy Increased risk of retinopathy progression with semaglutide	Avoid use perioperatively and/or in the presence of risk factors for DKA (eg, LADA, dehydration, infection, major trauma) Avoid use with advancing CKD Distal lower limb amputations increased with canagliflozin

ASCVD indicates atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease; CKD, chronic kidney disease; CV, cardiovascular; CVD, cardiovascular disease; DKA, diabetic ketoacidosis; DPP-4, dipeptidyl peptidase-4; GLP-1 RA, glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor agonist; HF, heart failure; LADA, latent autoimmune diabetes of adults; T2D, type 2 diabetes.

Notes:

In several recent trials in patients with CVD, DPP-4 inhibitors were found to be safe (noninferior to) but also nonsuperior to other antihyperglycemic drugs from CV point of view; a secondary outcome, heart failure, was significantly increased with saxagliptin. In clinical trials, liraglutide and empagliflozin reduced CV mortality. [1B]

See Table 2 for additional details on various classes of noninsulin drugs.

5.6.0 ORAL GLUCOSE-LOWERING MEDICATIONS (TABLE 4)

5.6.1 Examples of fixed-dose medications (TABLE 4):

5.7.0 INJECTABLE ANTIDIABETES MEDICATIONS (INCRETIN MIMETICS AND NONINSULIN ANALOGUES) (TABLE 5)

5.8.0 INSULIN PRODUCTS (TABLE 6)

5.8.1 Premixed insulin combinations:

TABLE 7. Premixed Insulin Combinations

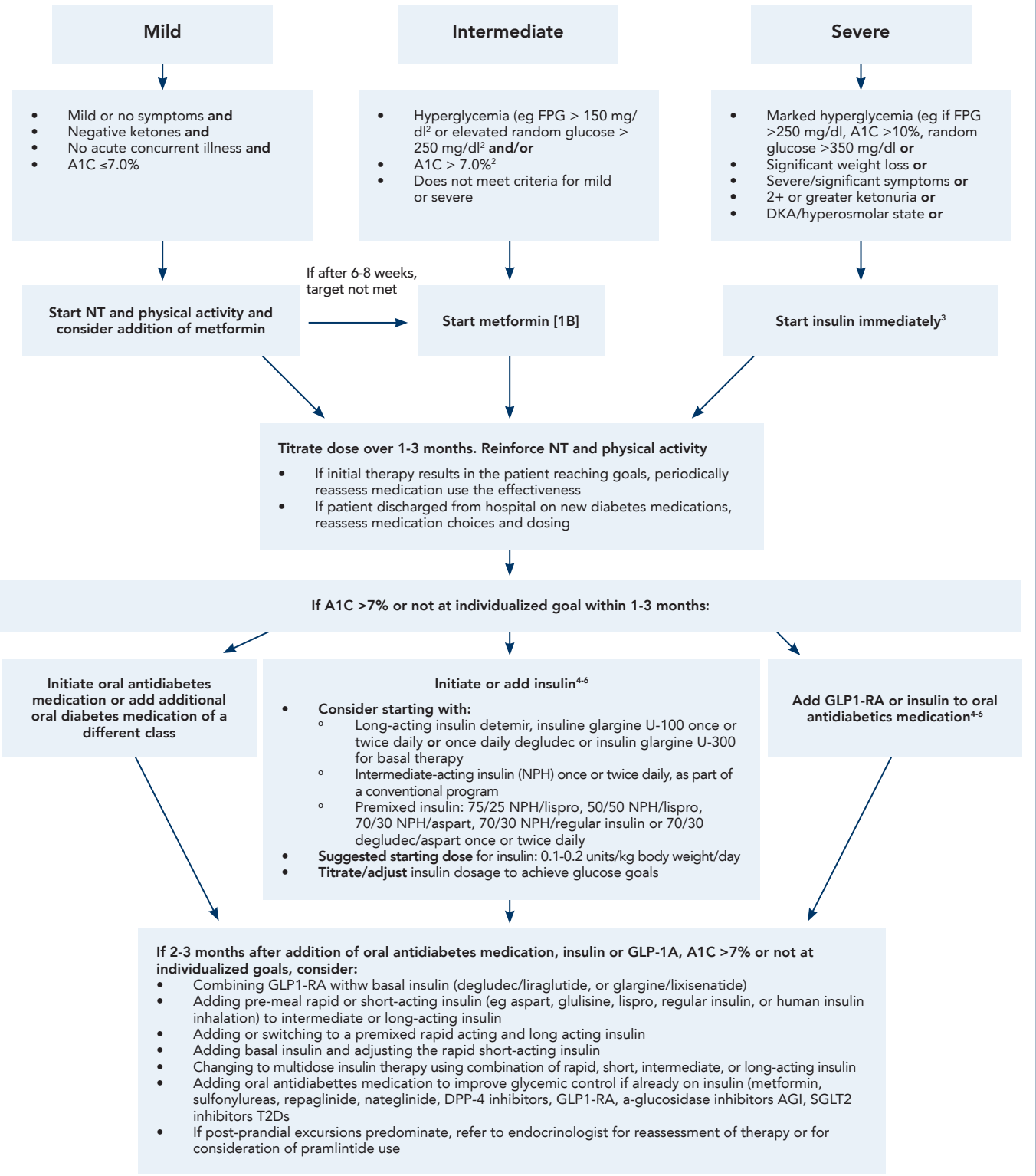
Insulin Type	Product
70% NPH, 30% regular	Humulin 70/30
70% NPH, 30% regular	Novolin 70/30
50% lispro protamine suspension, 50% lispro	Humalog Mix 50/50
75% lispro protamine suspension, 25% lispro	Humalog Mix 75/25
70% aspart protamine suspension, 30% aspart	Novolog Mix 70/30
70% degludec, 30% insulin aspart	Ryzodeg 70/30 (approved by FDA, but not yet available)

NPH indicates neutral protamine Hagedorn.

FIGURE 1. Advancing Antidiabetes Medication Therapy

Nutrition therapy (NT), physical activity, blood glucose monitoring and patient education are the cornerstones of diabetes management for all patients. Pharmacological management should be used in combination with nutrition therapy and physical activity. Current weight status and lifestyle should be considered when choosing initial pharmacological therapy.

Initial Presentation (Based on characteristics listed within each box) —



A1C indicates glycated hemoglobin; AGI, α-glucosidase inhibitor; DKA, diabetic ketoacidosis; DPP-4, dipeptidyl peptidase-4; FPG, fasting plasma glucose; GLP-1 RA, glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist; NPH, neutral protamine Hagedorn; SGLT2, sodium glucose co-transporter-2; TZDs, thiazolidinediones. See notes to table on SP259.

TABLE 2 (cont.). Considerations for Selecting Noninsulin Glucose-Lowering Medications

First-Line Add-On To Metformin Or Use As Monotherapy If Metformin Is Contraindicated					
<p>Insulin Secretagogues (sulfonylurea, repaglinide, nateglinide)</p> <p>Action: Stimulates beta cell insulin secretion.</p> <p>Adverse effects: Potential for hypoglycemia.</p> <p>Contraindications: Sulfonylurea use is contraindicated in severe liver or renal disease.</p> <p>Notes: Metabolites of glipizide are less active than other sulfonylureas. Consider the use of short-acting sulfonylureas, such as glipizide or glimepiride, in setting of renal disease.</p> <p>Glyburide is not preferred due to the increased risk of hypoglycemia.</p> <p>Repaglinide or nateglinide may be useful for those with postprandial hyperglycemia or with hypoglycemia on a sulfonylurea.</p>	<p>DPP-4 Inhibitors</p> <p>Action: In a glucose-dependent manner, slows inactivation of incretin hormones, resulting in increased insulin secretion and decreased glucagon levels.</p> <p>Adverse effects: UTI-like symptoms.</p> <p>Notes: Reduce dose in renal disease with all members of the class except linagliptin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Postmarketing reports of hepatic failure with alogliptin. - Clinical trials reported no adverse CV outcomes, except increased secondary outcome of heart failure with saxagliptin. - It is unknown if DPP-4 inhibitors increase the risk for pancreatitis.¹⁰ 	<p>GLP-1 RAs</p> <p>Action: In a glucose-dependent manner, increases insulin secretion, decreases glucagon secretion, slows gastric emptying, and increases satiety.</p> <p>Adverse effects: Nausea, diarrhea, renal impairment if low eGFR.</p> <p>Contraindications: Gastroparesis requiring treatment with metoclopramide.</p> <p>Personal or family history of medullary thyroid cancer or patients with MEN2.</p> <p>Notes: Use may be associated with weight loss. To avoid hypoglycemia when using a GLP-1 RA with a sulfonylurea or insulin, consider initially decreasing sulfonylurea or insulin dose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased risk of biliary disease and gallstones. - Liraglutide reduced major CV events in 2 large clinical trials in patients with CVD or high risk of CVD. - It is unknown if GLP-1 RAs increase the risk for pancreatitis.¹⁰ 	<p>SGLT2 Inhibitors¹¹</p> <p>Action: Blocks reabsorption of glucose by the kidney, thereby increasing excretion of glucose in the urine.</p> <p>Adverse effects: Hypotension, genital mycotic infections, UTI, dehydration, hyperkalemia, increased LDL cholesterol, ketoacidosis in the absence of severe hyperglycemia.¹¹</p> <p>Contraindications: Do not use in moderate to severe renal disease as it may worsen renal function.¹²</p> <p>Notes: Use may be associated with modest decreases in BP and in weight.</p> <p>Adjust dose in mild renal disease.</p> <p>Mechanism of action results in positive test for urine glucose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dapagliflozin is contraindicated in setting of bladder cancer; use with caution if there is a history of bladder cancer. - A small increase in fracture rate has been reported with canagliflozin and dapagliflozin. - Cases of acute kidney injury have been reported with canagliflozin and dapagliflozin. Promptly discontinue these drugs if this occurs and treat the renal impairment. - Empagliflozin and canagliflozin reduced major CV events and heart failure in clinical trials, in those with preexisting CVD as well as risk of renal disease progression (see Table 3). 	<p>AGIs</p> <p>Action: Delays absorption and breakdown of carbohydrates.</p> <p>Adverse effects: Gas, diarrhea.</p> <p>Contraindications: Chronic intestinal disorders, acarbose in cirrhosis, acarbose and miglitol in renal impairment (creatinine >2.0).</p> <p>Notes: Use if postprandial hyperglycemia predominates.</p> <p>Ideally use pure glucose to treat hypoglycemia when used in combination therapy as the drug decreases absorption of other forms of carbohydrate.</p> <p>Initiate at low dose and increase slowly to decrease flatulence.</p>	<p>TZDs⁷⁻⁹</p> <p>Action: Improves glucose transport and decreases hepatic glucose production.</p> <p>Adverse effects: Weight gain, fluid retention.</p> <p>Contraindications: Liver disease, severe LV dysfunction at risk for CHF.</p> <p>Do not use pioglitazone in setting of bladder cancer (see footnotes)</p> <p>Notes: Full effect of initiation or titration of therapy may take 2-4 weeks.</p> <p>May increase risk for macular edema.</p> <p>Increases bone loss and risk for bone fracture.</p> <p>Can be used in renal impairment but may increase fluid retention.</p> <p>A recent trial with pioglitazone showed reduced CVD events in nondiabetic patients with insulin resistance.</p>
Other Therapy					
<p>Bile Acid Sequestrant (colesevelam)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanism of action re: glucose lowering is unclear • Modest effect on A1C. Also lowers LDL-C. <p>Note: Reduces gastric absorption of some drugs. If known interaction or unknown interaction with narrow therapeutic index drug, administer 1 hour prior or 4 hours after colesevelam.</p> <p>Contraindications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowel obstruction • Serum triglycerides >500mg/dl • History of hypertriglyceridemia-induced pancreatitis 			<p>Centrally Acting Agent (bromocriptine mesylate)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanism of action re: glucose lowering is unclear • Most effective when used in combination with other antidiabetes medications • Modest effect on A1C <p>Contraindications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should not be taken by patients who are nursing mothers, take ergot medicines, or have syncopal migraines 		

Source: American Diabetes Association

A1C indicates glycated hemoglobin; AGI, α -glucosidase inhibitor; BP, blood pressure; CHF, congestive heart failure; CV, cardiovascular; CVD, cardiovascular disease; DPP-4, dipeptidyl peptidase-4; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; GLP-1 RA, glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LV, left ventricle; MEN2, multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2; SGLT2, sodium glucose co-transporter 2; UTI, urinary tract infection, TZD, thiazolidinedione.

See notes to tables on SP259.

TABLE 4. Oral Glucose-Lowering Medications

Biguanides	Insulin Secretagogues	DPP-4 Inhibitors	SGLT2 Inhibitors	AGIs	TZDs ⁹
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> liquid metformin* (Riomet) metformin (Glucophage) metformin extended release (Glucophage XR, Fortamet, Glumetza) <p>Glucophage, Glucophage XR, and Fortamet are available as generic medications</p> <p>*Liquid metformin formulation can be used for patients unable to swallow large tablets and/or who are post gastric bypass.</p>	<p>Sulfonylureas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> glimepiride (Amaryl) glipizide (Glucotrol) glipizide extended release (Glucotrol XL) glyburide (Micronase, Diabeta) micronized glyburide (Glynase) <p>*Glimepiride, glipizide, and glyburide are available as generic medications.</p> <p>Meglitinides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> repaglinide (Prandin) <p>D-phenylalanine Derivatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> nateglinide (Starlix) <p>*Repaglinide and nateglinide are available as generic medications.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sitagliptin (Januvia) saxagliptin (Onglyza) linagliptin (Tradjenta) alogliptin (Nesina) vildagliptin (Galvus; not available in the United States) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> canagliflozin (Invokana) dapagliflozin (Farxiga) empagliflozin (Jardiance) ertugliflozin (Steglatro) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> acarbose (Precose) miglitol (Glyset) <p>*Acarbose is available as a generic medication.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pioglitazone (Actos) rosiglitazone (Avandia) <p>*Pioglitazone and rosiglitazone are available as generic medications.</p>
<p>Examples of fixed-dose combination medications in the United States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> metformin and glipizide (Metaglip) metformin and glyburide (Glucovance) sitagliptin and metformin (Janumet) sitagliptin and metformin ER (Janumet XR) saxagliptin and metformin ER (Kombiglyze XR) alogliptin and metformin (Kazano) linagliptin and metformin (Jentadueto) linagliptin and metformin ER (Jentadueto XR) alogliptin and pioglitazone (Oseni) dapagliflozin and metformin (Xigduo) empagliflozin and metformin (Synjardy) empagliflozin and linagliptin (Glyxambi) dapagliflozin and saxagliptin (Qtern) canagliflozin and metformin (Invokamet) ertugliflozin and metformin (Stegluromet) ertugliflozin and sitagliptin (Steglujan) 					
<p>Others</p> <p>Bile Acid Sequestrants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> colesevelam (Welchol) ; cholestyramine (Questran) <p>Centrally Acting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> bromocriptine (Cycloset) 					

AGI indicates a-glucosidase Inhibitor; DPP-4, dipeptidyl peptidase-4; ER, extended release; SGLT2, sodium-glucose co-transporter 2; TZDs, thiazolidinediones. See notes to tables on SP259.

TABLE 5. Injectable Noninsulin Antidiabetes Medications Available in the United States

Incretin Mimetics And Synthetic Analogues			
Product	Mechanism of Action	Diabetes Type	Injection Frequency
exenatide (Byetta)	Incretin mimetic that enhances glucose-dependent insulin secretion and several other antihyperglycemic actions of incretins	2	2/day
lixisenatide (Adlyxin)	Incretin mimetic that enhances glucose-dependent insulin secretion and several other antihyperglycemic actions of incretins. Has not been studied in use with short-acting insulins	2	1/day
liraglutide (Victoza)	Incretin mimetic that enhances glucose-dependent insulin secretion and several other antihyperglycemic actions of incretins	2	1/day
extended release exenatide (Bydureon)	Incretin mimetic that enhances glucose-dependent insulin secretion and several other antihyperglycemic actions of incretins. Not approved for use with insulin	2	1/week
dulaglutide (Trulicity)	Incretin mimetic that enhances glucose-dependent insulin secretion and several other antihyperglycemic actions of incretins	2	1/week
semaglutide (Ozempic)	Incretin mimetic that enhances glucose-dependent insulin secretion and several other antihyperglycemic actions of incretins	2	1/week
pramlintide (Symlin)	Synthetic analogue of human amylin, a naturally occurring hormone made in the beta cells, which slows gastric emptying, suppresses glucagon secretion, and regulates food intake. A significant reduction in insulin dose may be required when insulin is used in conjunction with pramlintide	1 and 2	1-4/day (with meals)

TABLE 6. Insulin Pharmacodynamics

Insulin Type/Generic	Brand Name	Onset	Peak	Duration
Ultra-Rapid-Acting				
Faster insulin aspart	Fiasp	10-20 minutes	30 minutes-2 hours	3-5 hours
Insulin human inhalation	Afrezza	12-30 minutes	30-90 minutes	3 hours
Rapid Acting				
Insulin aspart	Novolog	15-30 minutes	30 minutes-3 hours	3-5 hours
Insulin glulisine	Apidra			
Insulin lispro U-100 Insulin lispro U-200	Humalog/Admelog Humalog			
Short-Acting				
Insulin human regular	Humulin/Novolin R	30-60 minutes	2-5 hours	up to 12 hours
Insulin human regular concentrated	Humulin R U-500	30-60 minutes	2-5 hours	6.5-10 hours
Intermediate-Acting				
Human NPH (neutral protamine Hagedorn) insulin	Humulin/Novolin N	90 minutes-4 hours	4-12 hours	up to 24 hours
Long-Acting				
Insulin detemir	Levemir	45 minutes-4 hours	Minimal peak (depending on dose)	up to 22 hours
Insulin glargine	Lantus/Basaglar			>24 hours
Insulin glargine U-300	Toujeo	6 hours		>42 hours
Insulin degludec U-100 or U-200	Tresiba	1 hour		>42 hours

Notes for Figure and Tables

- Goals should be individualized based on factors that include the following: comorbidities, age, duration of diabetes, hypoglycemic awareness.
- If diet history reveals markedly excessive carbohydrate intake, consider initial trial of nutrition therapy and physical activity before initiating oral antidiabetes medications, even if glucose levels are above the thresholds listed.
- Some patients with T2D initially stabilized on insulin may be considered for transition to noninsulin antidiabetes medications as blood glucose control permits.
- May need to taper and discontinue some or all oral antidiabetes medications as insulin is initiated and adjusted, particularly if using short- or rapid-acting and basal insulins.
- Pre- and postprandial blood glucose should be checked. Frequency of checking may vary; it can be 1 to 4 times/day depending on individual patient and status of glycemic control.
- There is an increased risk for edema when insulin and a thiazolidinedione are used together. Rosiglitazone should not be used in combination with insulin.
- FDA requirements for LFT monitoring for thiazolidinediones (TZDs): If initial alanine aminotransferase (ALT) is >2.5 times normal, do not start this medication. If ALT is >2.5 times normal during treatment, check weekly. If rise persists or becomes >3 times normal, discontinue TZD.
- Thiazolidinediones cause or exacerbate congestive heart failure in some patients. After initiation of TZDs and after dose increases, observe patients carefully for signs and symptoms of heart failure (including excessive or rapid weight gain; dyspnea; and/or edema). If these signs and symptoms develop, the heart failure should be managed according to current standards of care. Furthermore, discontinuation or dose reduction of the TZD must be considered. TZDs are not recommended in patients with symptomatic heart failure or in patients with established NYHA Class III or IV heart failure.
- On September 23, 2010, the FDA announced regulatory actions with respect to products containing rosiglitazone: Avandia (rosiglitazone maleate) tablets, Avandamet (rosiglitazone maleate and metformin hydrochloride) tablets, and Avandaryl (rosiglitazone maleate and glimepiride) tablets. These FDA actions required GlaxoSmithKline to implement restrictions on the use of these products through a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) program to assure their safe use and through additional safety labeling changes in response to the agency's review of data that suggested an elevated risk of cardiovascular events. However, based on additional data review, the REMS program was removed as of December 16, 2015. Rosiglitazone now has the same indications for prescribing as pioglitazone.
- According to the FDA advisory issued on June 15, 2011, regarding potential increased risk of bladder cancer with pioglitazone use: (1) Do not use pioglitazone in patients with active bladder cancer. (2) Use pioglitazone with caution in patients with a prior history of bladder cancer. The benefits of glycemic control versus unknown risks for cancer recurrence with pioglitazone should be considered in patients with a prior history of bladder cancer.
- Risks of acute pancreatitis or pancreatic cancer have not been confirmed in clinical trials. The FDA is currently monitoring clinical reports via the Adverse Event Reporting System
- Diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) with SGLT-2 inhibitors: Rare but sometimes serious cases have been reported. Check for DKA if symptoms develop, even if glucose levels are not elevated
- The potential benefits of SGLT-2 inhibitors in preventing progression of early renal disease are being investigated.

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