

Medication type: biguanides
Main site of action: liver
How it controls blood sugar:
keeps the liver from releasing too much glucose
Names: metformin (*Glucophage*)

Medication type: insulin
Most patients will choose to add insulin to achieve or maintain their blood sugar goals. Insulin can be injected or inhaled and helps the cells in the body get the blood sugar or glucose out of the bloodstream and into the cells where it can be used to provide energy for the body.

Medication type: injectable hormones
Injectable hormones are newer drugs that may also help you control your sugars.
Names: pramlintide (*Symlin*)
exenatide (*Byetta*)

Medication type: alpha-glucosidase inhibitors
Main site of action: intestines
How it controls blood sugar: slows the digestion of carbohydrates; after-meal blood sugar peaks are lower
Names: miglitol (*Glyset*), acarbose (*Precose*)

Medication type: sulfonylureas and glinides
Main site of action: pancreas
How it controls blood sugar:
helps pancreas to make more insulin
Names: glipizide (*Glucotrol*)
glyburide (*Micronase, DiaBeta*)
tolazamide (*Tolinase*)
glinides: repaglinide (*Prandin*), nateglinide (*Starlix*)

Medication type: thiazolidinediones
Main site of action: muscle cells
How it controls blood sugar:
makes muscle cells more sensitive to insulin
Names: pioglitazone (*Actos*), rosiglitazone (*Avandia*)

