

DIABETES MEDICATIONS: MORE ABOUT BYETTA, BYDUREON AND VICTOZA

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The more you know about your Byetta, Bydureon or Victoza medication, the more likely you will use it safely and effectively to help achieve your blood glucose goals. For best results, take your medication only as directed.

Byetta and Victoza come in pre-filled pens. Bydureon comes in a tray of four doses that must be mixed before injection. Before taking Bydureon, meet with your diabetes care team to learn how to mix and inject it properly.

Know the best time to take your medication. For instance, Byetta should be taken within the hour before you eat breakfast and dinner. Do not take it after you've eaten a meal. Bydureon is injected once a week, with or without food; Victoza is injected once a day, with or without food.

Proper storage will ensure your medication will keep doing its job. Store Byetta, Bydureon and Victoza in the refrigerator until use. Do not freeze your medication. After you use your Byetta or Victoza pen for the first time, it can be stored at room temperature.

Your Byetta or Victoza pen is only good for 30 days. After that, throw it away – even if there is still medication in the pen.

As with all medications, there is a possibility you may experience some side effects. Depending on other diabetes medications you are taking, your risk of hypoglycemia, or low blood glucose, may increase when also taking these medications.

Common side effects include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness and headache. Some side effects may go away with time. If you experience any side effects, do not stop taking your medication until you talk to your diabetes care team. Your care team may be able to make adjustments to your management plan to help you feel better.

Before taking Bydureon, tell your healthcare provider if you have a personal or family history of thyroid problems, stomach problems or have ever had pancreatitis. If you also take an anticoagulant medication, your healthcare provider may recommend you have frequent blood tests to ensure your safety.

Before taking Victoza, tell your healthcare provider if you have any stomach problems, have ever had pancreatitis or gallstones, or are addicted to alcohol. If you notice any swelling or a lump in your throat area while taking Victoza, tell your healthcare provider immediately. If you experience severe stomach pain that does not go away, stop taking Victoza and call your healthcare provider immediately.

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Byetta, Bydureon or Victoza may be the right tool to help you keep your blood glucose in your target range. At your next diabetes care team visit, go over your medication storage options. Demonstrate how you take your medication to ensure you are injecting it correctly. Your diabetes care team may have helpful tips and suggestions to ensure your medication keeps working safely for you.