

# Glimepiride

When you have Type 2 Diabetes, you may be prescribed Glimepiride. To see how this medicine works, let's see what happens when you eat.

When you eat, your body breaks down most of the food into glucose, a form of sugar, and releases hormones that travel to your pancreas.

The glucose enters your bloodstream causing your blood glucose (or sugar) level to rise.

In response to this rise in glucose and release of hormones, the pancreas releases insulin. Insulin works like a key to open the cells and let glucose enter.

The glucose is used for energy now or it is stored in the cells for later use.

In many people with Type 2 Diabetes, the pancreas does not release enough insulin to open the cells and remove glucose from your bloodstream. Your blood sugar level stays high.

When you take Glimepiride, your pancreas releases more insulin, making it possible for the cells to open and take in glucose. This removes it from the bloodstream and lowers your blood sugar level.

This medicine is usually taken just once a day with the first main meal of the day to keep blood sugar levels from rising between meals.

Glimepiride may interact with certain medicines. Before taking Glimepiride, give your doctor a complete list of all other medicines you use, including over the counter medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements.

Some side effects of Glimepiride include: hypoglycemia or low blood sugar, unusual nausea, upset stomach, and an unusual headache.

If you do notice any of these side effects, contact your doctor about how to manage them.

If you have: bruising; bleeding nose or gums; a fever; nausea; stomach pain; trouble swallowing; dark colored urine; yellowing of the eyes or skin; headache; confusion; a rash; or feel like you may pass out; call your doctor right away.

This is not the complete list of side effects. Make sure you discuss all possible side effects with your doctor.

Because low blood sugar is a possible side effect and can be serious, always carry a fast-acting carbohydrate such as glucose tablets or gel, available at any pharmacy. Talk to your doctor about how to manage low sugar levels.

If you have an allergic reaction like: trouble breathing, hives, or swelling of your face or throat; call 911.

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Take Glimepiride exactly as prescribed.

If you have any questions about Glimepiride, ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

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