

# Diabetes Medications: Rosiglitazone, Pioglitazone

You may be prescribed Rosiglitazone or Pioglitazone when you have type 2 diabetes.

Please note that these are the generic names of these medications. You're probably more familiar with these brand names.

These medications help insulin open the cells to let glucose enter.

To see how these medications work, let's see what happens when you eat.

Most of the food changes to glucose, a form of sugar. Glucose enters the bloodstream causing your blood glucose level to rise.

In response to this rise in glucose, 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 stored for later use.

As insulin works to move the glucose out of your bloodstream and into the cells, your blood glucose level drops.

In many people with type 2 Diabetes, the cells have trouble taking in glucose because they can't use insulin. This is called insulin resistance.

These medicines will help your cells use insulin to open and let glucose in. This removes glucose from your bloodstream so you can use it for energy.

These medications are usually taken just once or twice a day.

Side effects include upper respiratory infections, headaches, muscle pain, and weight gain or swelling.

If you have any side effects, let your diabetes care team know about them. However, do not stop taking your diabetes medication unless you are told to do so.

Rosiglitazone can cause life threatening side effects. It can increase your risk of serious heart problems including heart attack and stroke.

If you are taking this medication, be sure you understand and review your heart disease risk factors with your healthcare provider. A different medication is most likely safer for you.

If you are being treated for bladder cancer, do not take Pioglitazone.

People with Congestive Heart Failure should NOT use either of these medications.

The health of your liver and kidneys should be checked before starting these medications and every now and then as you continue to take them.

Taking your medications as directed will help you gain control of your blood glucose levels and help you avoid the long-term complications of diabetes.