

# Diabetes Medications: Canagliflozin, Dapagliflozin, Empagliflozin, Ertugliflozin

When you have type 2 diabetes you may be prescribed Canagliflozin, Dapagliflozin, Empagliflozin, or Ertugliflozin.

Please note that these are the generic names of these medications. You may be more familiar with these brand names.

These medications help the kidneys release extra glucose from the body through urine.

To see how these medications help control your blood glucose, let's see what happens when you eat.

When you eat, your body breaks down most food into glucose, a form of sugar.

The glucose enters your bloodstream causing your blood glucose level to rise.

Insulin works like a key to open the cells and let glucose enter. Glucose is used for energy now or stored in the cells for later use.

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

However, in people with type 2 diabetes, the blood glucose level stays high.

These medications help your kidneys to release this extra glucose into your urine, so it can leave your body.

These medications may also help the health of your heart and kidneys.

Your diabetes care team will tell you the correct dose and time to take your medication, but it is usually taken once a day before the first meal.

Some side effects may include: genital yeast infections; increase in the need to urinate; dehydration, which may cause dizziness and weakness; and can lower blood pressure.

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.

A serious side effect called ketoacidosis may lead to hospitalization.

Stop taking your medication and call 911 right away if you have trouble breathing, stomach pain, nausea, vomiting or breath that smells fruity.

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