

## Oral Drugs

This handout describes the oral drugs used to treat Type 2 diabetes and offers tips for taking them. It covers the site of action, how they work, and side effects to watch for.

### Circle the oral diabetes drug you take

- Glyburide (DiaBeta, Glynase, Micronase), glimepiride (Amaryl), glipizide (Glucotrol), nateglinide (Starlix), repaglinide (Prandin)
  - Site of action is the pancreas
  - Makes the pancreas release more insulin
  - Side effects to watch for are warning signs of low blood sugar
    - Pass out or faint
    - Shaky or sweaty
    - Cranky, tired, or confused
    - Lightheaded or headaches
- Metformin (Glucophage)
  - Site of action is liver
  - Decreases the amount of glucose the liver puts out
  - Side effects to watch for are diarrhea, upset stomach, vomiting, gas, tiredness, and muscle pains
- Acarbose (Precose), Miglitol (Glyset)
  - Site of action is the gut
  - Slows the breakdown of carbohydrates (carbs), which slows the rate of their absorption
  - Side effects to watch for are diarrhea, upset stomach and gas
- Rosiglitazone (Avandia), pioglitazone (Actos)
  - Site of action is muscle
  - Improves ability of muscle and other cells to use the insulin you do have
  - Side effects to watch for are weight gain and body holding water
  - Your doctor may want to do a test to check your liver

### Take your medicine and do NOT miss a dose

- Do not miss or skip a dose
- Ask your doctor what to do if you miss a dose

### When you take oral drugs for diabetes

- Do not skip meals
- Tell your doctor if you start an exercise program
- Ask your doctor what side effects to watch for

### Tell your doctor about ALL the drugs you take

- Some drugs do not work well with other drugs, herbs, or food
- Tell your doctor if you start a new drug or herb