

The Benefits of Newer Diabetes Medications

Sodium-Glucose Transport Protein 2 Inhibitors (SGLT2)



Have you been prescribed one of these medications?

- Dapagliflozin (Farxiga)
- Canagliflozin (Invokana)
- Empagliflozin (Jardiance)
- Ertugliflozin (Steglatro)
- Bexagliflozin (Brenzavvy)

SGLT2is help your body lower blood sugar by causing glucose to be removed through your urine.



Did you know that these medications can do more that help lower your blood sugar? Other benefits include:

- Protect kidney function and prevent the need for dialysis
- Lower risk of having or dying from a heart attack, stroke, or heart failure
- Lower blood pressure
- Mild weight loss



How is the medication taken?

These are oral medications that should be taken once a day. Because they make you urinate more, you should take them in the morning.



What should I expect after starting an SGLT2i?

After starting this medicine, you may see a small drop in kidney function measured by blood tests. **This is an expected short-term effect and may be associated with long-term improvement in kidney function.** Your health care team may check your blood tests after 1-2 months to monitor.



What side effects might you experience?

*Side effects are mild and may improve or go away in about 3-8 weeks.

- Increased urination
- Yeast infection
- Urinary tract infection
- Low blood pressure



How can I lessen or avoid side effects?

- Adequate hydration by drinking 6-8 glasses of water daily
- Avoid drinking water too close to bedtime
- Practice good genital hygiene (ensure you wipe yourself dry after urinating) and shower daily (in hot summer months, consider showering multiple times per day)
- Use cotton underwear
- Monitor your blood pressure at home
- Monitor your blood sugar at home if on insulin, glipizide, glyburide, or glimepiride
- Notify your doctor if another doctor/specialist starts you on a blood pressure medication



When should I call my health care team?

If you experience:

- Unexplained fatigue, loss of appetite, or shortness of breath
- Intense pain of genitals or rectum with a fever and/or feeling unwell
- Unexplained falls
- Being unable to eat
- Unexplained, frequent low blood sugars (less than 70mg/dL)
- If you are started on a new blood pressure medication
- If you are scheduled for surgery and need to stop your medications
- If you decide to start following a low carb diet (less than 100 grams of total carbohydrates daily)

*NOTE: These are the most common side effects. This list does not include all possible side effects. **You may not experience any of these side effects.** Please talk to your health care team if you have other concerns about side effects.

This handout should not be used as a substitute for medical advice from your health care team. It is your responsibility to review information provided by your pharmacy and consult with your doctor or health care team member prescribing these medications with any questions about your medication.

Affording these medications

For patients with:

For more diabetes resources for patients:
mct2d.org/patients

Commercial Insurance

SGLT2is are generally covered, but insurance may not cover all medications. Check with your insurance to see which are covered and tell your health care team. **MCT2D Coverage Guide:** michmed.org/jmKmn
You may have a copay. Use the link below to find a copay savings card that may lower your out-of-pocket cost.

If you have a high deductible plan, you will have to pay the full cost of the medication until your deductible is met.

Medicare Part D

You may have a copay. Copay savings cards cannot be used with Medicare insurance. Talk to your doctor about Patient Assistance Programs. Patients with an annual income of less than \$50,000 may be able to get the medication for free.

Michigan Medicaid

A least one of these medications will be covered by your insurance. These medications do not have a generic version. Check with your insurance to see which medications is preferred. This will have the lowest out-of-pocket cost to you.

How much does the medication cost?

If you are not sure what the medication will cost contact your health insurance company. Ask them the following questions:

What is/are my plans preferred SGLT2is?

How much is my copay for this medication?

What is my deductible for medications, and have I met it?

Deductible: \$ _____ Currently met: \$ _____

Is a 90-day supply available? Yes No

What is my preferred local pharmacy? _____

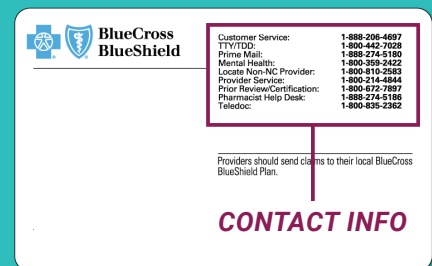
What is my preferred mail order pharmacy? _____

Are the medications I am on currently preferred? Yes No

Find your insurance company contact information on the back of your insurance card.

If you cannot locate your card, you can search the web for your insurance company's phone number.

EXAMPLE CARD BACK



Medication Copay Savings Card
Programs Reference Guide
michmed.org/dJJk5



Patient Assistance Program
(PAP) Guide
michmed.org/kQQRy

