

PATIENT EDUCATION

Sulfonylureas (such as glyburide, glipizide, glimepiride)

What is a sulfonylurea?

A sulfonylurea is a medication taken by mouth for diabetes control in people who have type 2 diabetes. The most common sulfonylureas used are glyburide, glipizide, and glimepiride, there are others. The major difference in sulfonylureas is how long they work in the body.

How will taking a sulfonylurea help my blood sugar control?

Sulfonylureas work by causing your pancreas to release more insulin into the blood. Sulfonylureas help insulin take sugar out of the blood and put it into the cells. In this way, sulfonylureas will help control blood sugar.

What are the common side effects of sulfonylureas?

Side effects are rare, but the most common side effect is low blood sugar. Signs include shaking, fast heartbeat, pale face, confusion, or sweating. Hard candies, glucose tablets, or soda can be used to treat low blood sugar. If you are taking several oral medications for your diabetes and experience low blood sugars, talk to your health care provider about decreasing the dose of your sulfonylurea.

How do most people take this medication?

Most people take this medication once or twice a day. It is important to take this medication before meals or a large snack. You may be advised not to take this medicine if you are not eating.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

Take a missed dose as soon as you remember it. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular schedule.

Do sulfonylureas require any special laboratory tests or monitoring?

Sulfonylureas do not require any special laboratory tests. It is good for your health care provider to check your A1C every 6 months and for you to routinely monitor your blood sugar at home.

How will I know if the medication is working?

You will notice a decrease in your blood sugar results as soon as you start your sulfonylurea. Check your blood sugar and see! Your A1C will also tell you if the medicine is working.



For more information contact:	
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