

DIABETES PILLS

HOW AND WHERE THEY WORK

Many people take diabetes pills or tablets to help them control their diabetes. Pills for diabetes are not insulin.

Diabetes pills work in a number of ways and in different parts of the body. The drawing (picture) below shows you where and how many commonly used diabetes pills work.

LIVER

Glucophage*
Actos

Help to lower the amount of sugar (glucose) made by the liver.

MUSCLE CELLS

Glucophage*
Actos

Help muscle cells make better use of the body's insulin.

LIVER AND PANCREAS

Januvia, Onglyza, Tradjenta, Nesina

Help the pancreas produce more insulin and also help lower the amount of sugar made by the liver.

KIDNEYS

Farxiga
Invokana
Jardiance
Steglatro

Lower the amount of sugar the kidneys keep in the body.

PANCREAS

Glimepiride
Glyburide
Glipizide
Nateglinide
Repaglinide

Help the pancreas produce more insulin.

INTESTINES

Precose, Glyset

Slow how the body breaks down some carbohydrates (which helps slow the rise of blood sugar levels).

*METFORMIN is the generic name of Glucophage.