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.

**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.

**PANCREAS**
- **Glimepiride**
- **Glyburide**
- **Glipizide**
- **Nateglinide**
- **Repaglinide**
  Help the pancreas produce more insulin.

**MUSCLE CELLS**
- **Glucophage***
- **Actos**
  Help muscle cells make better use of the body’s insulin.

**KIDNEYS**
- **Farxiga**
- **Invokana**
- **Jardiance**
- **Steglatro**
  Lower the amount of sugar the kidneys keep in the body.

**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.

Provided as an educational service on www.learningaboutdiabetes.org. This handout is not for use by organizations or healthcare professionals. © 2014 Learning About Diabetes, Inc. All rights reserved. Rev 2020.