

Sulfonylureas

What are they used for?

Sulfonylureas are used in patients with Type 2 diabetes.

How do they work?

Sulfonylureas lower blood sugar by stimulating your pancreas to release more insulin.

Are there any side effects?

Some effects that people have experienced while taking these medications include:

- Hypoglycemia – low blood sugar. Most common with glyburide
- Stomach upset (nausea, heartburn, feeling “full”, bloating)
- Skin rash, itching, or redness of the skin
- Weight gain
- Increased sensitivity to the sun

Caution in elderly due to risk of hypoglycemia. Gliclazide and glimepiride are preferred in the elderly due to less risk of hypoglycemia.

How do I take them?

Sulfonylureas are generally taken with or before a meal. They are usually taken once a day before breakfast, or twice a

day before breakfast and supper (or evening meal).

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then to take the medication and skip the missed dose.

Do not use extra medicine to make up for the missed dose.

Be sure to fill your prescription for your sulfonylurea as soon as possible after discharge from the hospital.

Important to remember:

Eat 2 to 3 meals per day to reduce risk of hypoglycemia with these medications.

What are some commonly used sulfonylureas?

Generic Name	Brand Name
glyburide	diabeta
gliclazide	diamicron
glimepiride	amaryl

*** Please note that this information sheet does not contain complete information about sulfonylureas. If you need more information about this drug, be sure to ask your doctor or pharmacist.*