

Oral Diabetes Medication (Sulfonylurea Agents) Patient Information Sheet

What Medications Does This Handout Discuss?

- This handout contains information about certain diabetes medications called sulfonylureas. Diabetes medications in this class include the following:
 - glipizide (generic, Glucotrol®, Glucotrol XL®)
 - glyburide (generic, Diabeta®, Micronase®, Glynase®)
 - glimepiride (generic, Amaryl®)
- If you have specific questions, or if you would like more information, please read the information included with your prescription, or ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Basic Information About These Medications (Sulfonylureas)

- Sulfonylureas are medications used to treat diabetes. Sulfonylureas may be used by themselves, or may be combined with other types of diabetes pills or with insulin. There is generally no reason to be on more than one sulfonylurea medication at a time.
- These medications come in many different pill sizes. It is important that you know the dose of your medication. **Your starting dose is listed on the other side of this form.**
- Sulfonylureas are taken once or twice per day. Sulfonylureas should be taken with meals.

What Side Effects Can Sulfonylureas Cause?

- Sulfonylureas cause no side effects in most people who take them. Rarely, they can cause upset stomach, nausea, diarrhea, constipation, or other symptoms. If you have unexplained symptoms while starting a sulfonylurea, please report these to your doctor.
- Low blood sugar (hypoglycemia) is the most dangerous side effect of sulfonylureas. To minimize the risk of low blood sugar, you should take sulfonylureas with meals and should not skip meals. You may need to monitor your blood sugar more carefully when starting a sulfonylurea. You should check your blood sugar if you feel like it is low, and should know how to treat low blood sugar if it occurs. *If you have questions about the symptoms of low blood sugar, how to check your blood sugar, or how to treat low blood sugar, please discuss these with your doctor and review the handout "Treatment of hypoglycemia," available at <http://www.boulderendo.com>.*

Are There Special Precautions for People Who Take Sulfonylureas?

- *If you are having problems with low blood sugar, please call your doctor*
- If you have chronic liver or kidney disease, you should not take sulfonylureas unless specifically instructed to do so by your doctor.
- You should not skip meals while taking sulfonylureas. If you are unable to eat, you should stop the sulfonylurea medication until you are able to eat.
- You should not drink alcohol in excess while on sulfonylurea medications. Excess alcohol increases the risk of having a very low blood sugar.
- If you become pregnant, you should stop the sulfonylurea and notify your doctor.

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What Is My Medication? What Is My Dose?

GLIPIZIDE (GENERIC, GLUCOTROL®, GLUCOTROL XL®)

2.5 MG TABLET

5 MG TABLET

10 MG TABLET

½ TABLET WITH MORNING MEAL

1 TABLET WITH MORNING MEAL

2 TABLETS WITH MORNING MEAL

1 TABLET WITH MORNING MEAL AND 1 TABLET WITH EVENING MEAL

2 TABLETS WITH MORNING MEAL AND 2 TABLETS WITH EVENING MEAL

___ TABLETS WITH MORNING MEAL AND ___ TABLETS WITH EVENING MEAL

GLYBURIDE (GENERIC, DIABETA®, MICRONASE®, GLYNASE®)

2.5 MG TABLET

5 MG TABLET

___ MG TABLET

½ TABLET WITH MORNING MEAL

1 TABLET WITH MORNING MEAL

2 TABLETS WITH MORNING MEAL

1 TABLET WITH MORNING MEAL AND 1 TABLET WITH EVENING MEAL

2 TABLETS WITH MORNING MEAL AND 2 TABLETS WITH EVENING MEAL

___ TABLETS WITH MORNING MEAL AND ___ TABLETS WITH EVENING MEAL

GLIMEPIRIDE (GENERIC, AMARYL®)

1 MG TABLET

2 MG TABLET

4 MG TABLET

½ TABLET WITH MORNING MEAL

1 TABLET WITH MORNING MEAL

2 TABLETS WITH MORNING MEAL

1 TABLET WITH MORNING MEAL AND 1 TABLET WITH EVENING MEAL

2 TABLETS WITH MORNING MEAL AND 2 TABLETS WITH EVENING MEAL

___ TABLETS WITH MORNING MEAL AND ___ TABLETS WITH EVENING MEAL

Will My Dose Change? How Should I Monitor My Blood Sugar?

- Sulfonylurea medications take about 1 week to have the greatest effect on your blood sugar. This means that after 1 week your blood sugar should be as low as it will get with the new medication.
- The dose of sulfonylurea medication that you begin with might need to be increased if your blood sugar is still high. Your doctor will discuss any changes with you. **You should not change the dose without talking with your doctor first.**
- If you are having problems with low blood sugar, please call your doctor.