



## Name That Medicine:

# Cholesterol Medications

People with diabetes may have abnormal cholesterol levels. One or more medications may be used to manage LDL (bad), HDL (good) cholesterol and triglycerides. This may help your patients identify the name of the medications that have been prescribed for them and how the medications work.

### Statins (HMG-CoA Reductase Inhibitors):

Drug Name <small>*Indicates Generic is Available</small>	Representative Brand Name	Doses Available (mg)	Mechanism of Action
Atorvastatin	Lipitor®	10 20 40 80	Reduces the body's ability to make cholesterol
Fluvastatin	Lescol® Lescol® XL	20 40 80	
Lovastatin*	Mevacor® Altoprev™	20 40	
Pravastatin*	Pravachol®	10 20	
Rosuvastatin	Crestor®	5 10 20 40	
Simvastatin*	Zocor®	5 10 20 40 80	

### Bile Acid Sequestrants:

Drug Name <small>*Indicates Generic is Available</small>	Representative Brand Name	Doses Available (mg)	Mechanism of Action
Cholestyramine*	Questran®	4gm Powder Packets	Absorbs and binds with bile salts which increase removal of cholesterol through the stool
Cholesevelam	Welchol®	625mg	

### Cholesterol Absorption Inhibitor:

Drug Name	Representative Brand Name	Doses Available (mg)	Mechanism of Action
Ezetimibe	Zetia®	10	Blocks cholesterol absorption from the small intestine

### Combination:

Drug Name	Representative Brand Name	Doses Available (mg)	Mechanism of Action
Ezetimibe and Simvastatin	Vytorin™	10/10 10/20 10/40 10/80	Blocks production and absorption of cholesterol

### Fibric Acid:

Drug Name <small>*Indicates Generic is Available</small>	Representative Brand Name	Doses Available (mg)	Mechanism of Action
Fenofibrate* <sup>1</sup>	Tricor®	48 145	Lowers cholesterol and triglycerides
Gemfibrozil*	Lopid®	600	

### Niacin:

Drug Name <small>*Indicates Generic is Available</small>	Representative Brand Name	Doses Available (mg)	Mechanism of Action
Niacin Extended Release* <sup>1</sup>	Niaspan®	500 750 1000	Lowers cholesterol and triglycerides

### Omega-3 Fatty Acids:

Drug Name <small>*Indicates Generic is Available</small>	Representative Brand Name	Doses Available (mg)	Mechanism of Action
Omega-3 Fatty Acids* <sup>1</sup>	Lovaza®	1	Lowers triglycerides

### Stanol and Sterol Esters:

Drug Name	Representative Brand Name	Doses Available (mg)	Mechanism of Action
Naturally occur in various fruits and vegetables; are also in fortified foods including spreads, salad dressings, juices, select snack bars and soft gel supplements.	Take Control® spread and Benecol®	N/A	Inhibits absorption of dietary and biliary cholesterol; 2-3 grams per day is recommended.

**Diabetes Educators:** Call 1-800-635-2288 for information or patient brochures.

**Medicare Part B patients:** Call 1-877-231-5199 and mention reference code ED06500 to order your diabetes testing supplies.

**Website:** [www.PrescriptionSolutions.com/diabetes](http://www.PrescriptionSolutions.com/diabetes)

<sup>1</sup> Not a generic equivalent for the brand.

Generics may be available for many of the medications noted above; consult with your pharmacist to determine whether a suitable generic of your medication is available.

Additional medications are available, though less frequently prescribed, including Advicor (lovastatin with niacin). In addition, medications for managing more than one condition are available, for example Caduet (atorvastatin with amlodipine) for blood cholesterol and blood pressure management.

Sources: Adapted from [www.drugdigest.org](http://www.drugdigest.org), and *The Art and Science of Diabetes Self-Management Education*, 2006.

The information in this educational tool does not substitute for the medical advice, diagnosis or treatment of your physician. Always seek the help of your physician or qualified health provider for any questions you may have regarding a medical condition.

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## Name That Medicine:

# Oral Glucose Medications

When doctors prescribe oral medications to treat type 2 diabetes, many options are available. This guide may help your patients identify the name of the oral medication that has been prescribed for them — and help avoid confusion.

### Alpha-Glucosidase Inhibitors:

Drug Name	Representative Brand Name	Doses Available (mg)	Mechanism of Action
Acarbose	Precose®	25	Inhibit carbohydrate digestion to delay and lessen the rise in post meal glucose levels
		50	
		100	
Miglitol	Glyset®	25	
		50	
		100	

### DPP-4 Inhibitors:

Drug Name	Representative Brand Name	Doses Available (mg)	Mechanism of Action
Sitagliptin Phosphate	Januvia™	50	Enhances function of both alpha and beta cells to improve glucose uptake and decrease glucose production
		100	

### Biguanides:

Drug Name <small>*Indicates Generic is Available</small>	Representative Brand Name	Doses Available (mg)	Mechanism of Action
Metformin*	Glucophage®	500	Increases insulin sensitivity to decrease blood glucose levels: • Decreases liver glucose production • Increases insulin sensitivity
		850	
		1000	
Metformin Extended Release*	Glucophage® XR	500	
		750	

### Meglitinides:

Drug Name	Representative Brand Name	Doses Available (mg)	Mechanism of Action
Nateglinide	Starlix®	60	Short acting agents that increase insulin secretion and decrease blood glucose in people with capacity to produce insulin
		120	
Repaglinide	Prandin®	0.5	
		1	
		2	

### Sulfonylureas:

Drug Name <small>*Indicates Generic is Available</small>	Representative Brand Name	Doses Available (mg)	Mechanism of Action
Glimepiride*	Amaryl®	1	Increases insulin secretion in people with capacity to produce insulin, to decrease blood glucose
		2	
		4	
Glipizide*	Glucotrol®	5	
		10	
Glipizide Extended Release*	Glucotrol® XL	5	
		10	
Glyburide*	Diabeta®	1.25	
		2.5	
		5	
Glyburide micronized*	Glynase™ Pres Tab	1.5	
		3	
		6	

### Combinations:

Drug Name <small>*Indicates Generic is Available</small>	Representative Brand Name	Doses Available (mg)	Mechanism of Action
Actos with Metformin	ACTOplus met™	15/500 mg	Increase glucose uptake and decrease glucose production
		15/850 mg	
Avandia with Metformin	Avandamet®	1/500 mg	
		2/500 mg	
		4/500 mg	
		2/1000 mg	
		4/1000 mg	
Avandia with Amaryl	Avandaryl™	4/1 rosi/glim	Increase insulin production and glucose uptake
		4/2 rosi/glim	
		4/4 rosi/glim	
Glipizide—Metformin*	Metaglip™	2.5/250 glip/met	Increase insulin production and decrease glucose production
		2.5/500 glip/met	
		5/500 glip/met	
Glyburide—Metformin*	Glucovance®	1.25/250 gly/met	
		2.5/500 gly/met	
		5/500 gly/met	

### Thiazolidinediones:

Drug Name	Representative Brand Name	Doses Available (mg)	Mechanism of Action
Pioglitazone	Actos®	15	Increase insulin sensitivity to increase glucose uptake and reduce blood glucose levels
		30	
		45	
Rosiglitazone	Avandia®	2	
		4	
		8	

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In addition to medications included here, multiple combination medications continue to become available, combining the mechanisms of action of two classes of drugs in one medication. Examples of such include Duetact™ and Janumet™.

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