### Diabetes Medication Pearls

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| **Metformin** | (variable) | 500-2000 mg once or twice daily | Decrease amount of glucose produced by the liver, increases cells response to insulin | Gas, nausea, diarrhea | • 1.5% A1C reduction  
• Low risk of hypoglycemia  
• Weight neutral  
• $3/month |
| **Sulfonylureas** | (variable) | Varying doses once or twice daily | Increases insulin secretion | Risk for hypoglycemia, weight gain | • 1.2% A1C Reduction  
• $5/month |
| **TZDs** | (variable) | 15-45 mg once daily | Increases cells response to insulin (requires presence of insulin for its action) | Weight gain, fluid retention, risk of worsening heart failure, may increase risk of bladder cancer | • 1% A1C reduction  
• Low risk of hypoglycemia  
• CV benefit  
• $10/month |
| **SGLT2 inhibitors** | (variable) | 5-15 mg once daily (Steglatro®)  
5-10 mg once daily (Farxiga®) | Increases amount of glucose excreted in the urine | Weight loss (initially), dizziness/low blood pressure, increased risk of urinary tract and genital mycotic infections | • 0.7-1% A1C reduction  
• Steglatro preferred SGLT2  
• Farxiga used in established HF, ASCVD, CKD  
• ~$300/month |
| **DPP-4 inhibitors** | (variable) | 25 mg once daily | Increases insulin production during meals, decreases amount of glucose produced by liver | Risk of new or worsening heart failure | • 0.7% A1C reduction  
• Low risk of hypoglycemia  
• Weight neutral  
• ~$200/month |
| **GLP-1 agonists** | (variable) | Inject under the skin once daily (Victoza®, Adlyxin®), twice daily (Byetta®) or once weekly (Bydureon®, Trulicity®) | Increases insulin secretion, decreases release of stored glucose, decreases appetite | Weight loss, nausea, vomiting, satiety, injection site reactions, rare pancreatitis | • 1% A1C reduction  
• Low risk of hypoglycemia  
• Requires failure of 3 orals and basal insulin  
• Some have proven ASCVD benefit  
• ~$900/month |
| **Insulin** | (variable) | Basal: 10 units/day or 0.1-0.2 units/kg/day, then titrate to FBG target  
Bolus: 4 units, 0.1 units/kg, or 10% of basal dose before largest meal | Hypoglycemia, weight gain | | • Highest A1C reduction, (variable)  
• NPH less expensive than other basal insulins  
• ~$200-400/month |