

## Glucophage (Brand) Metformin (Generic)

### Description

Metformin is used to treat Type 2 or non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (NIDDM). Its actions differ from other medications used for diabetes. Most stimulate the pancreas to produce more insulin. Metformin works by reducing the amount of sugar the liver sends into the bloodstream. Because of this, Metformin is often taken in addition to other diabetes medicines to improve their effect. Taking medications to help improve your blood sugar is an important way to help prevent the complications of diabetes.

*If you have any questions about this or any other medicines, please ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.*

### Dosage and Administration

This medicine is taken by mouth with the meal. Your doctor will determine the dose and how often you should take Metformin.

### Missed Dose

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular dosing schedule. Do not double the next dose.

### Side Effects

If you are taking Metformin with other diabetes pills, low blood sugar can occur. Metformin, alone, rarely causes low blood sugar (hypoglycemia).

Along with the needed effects, a drug may cause some unwanted effects. Other side effects may occur but go away as your body adjusts to the medicine.

Contact your doctor if any of the following persist:

- Changes in taste.
- Gas.
- Headache.

- Loss of appetite.
- Nausea.
- Diarrhea.

**Check with your doctor right away if you suddenly note:**

- Unusual muscle pain or cramping.
- Fast shallow breathing.
- Weakness.
- Severe diarrhea.

**Special Instructions**

- Remember it is important to follow your scheduled meal plan.
- Certain medicines may affect the way Metformin works. Tell your doctor about any prescribed or over-the-counter medicines you are taking.
- Do not take any other medicine unless prescribed or approved by your doctor.
- Avoid alcoholic beverages until you have discussed their use with your doctor.
- If you are on Metformin and are considering pregnancy please discuss diabetes care with your doctor.
- Do not take Metformin if you are pregnant or are breastfeeding.
- If you are scheduled for any diagnostic test that involves the use of an iodine injection, Metformin must be stopped for a few days. Please talk with your doctor for specific instructions and ways to manage your diabetes during this time.
- For more information on diabetes ask your doctor or contact the Outpatient Diabetes Nurse Educator at: 312-926-2213 or 926-4980.

My dose is: \_\_\_\_\_ I am to take with (circle one):

Breakfast      Lunch      Dinner

*Para asistencia en español, por favor llamar a el departamento de representantes para pacientes al 312-926-3112.*

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Developed by: Department of Pharmacy and the Diabetes Nurse Clinicians