

# Empagliflozin in combination therapy for treating type 2 diabetes

Information for the public  
Published: 25 March 2015

[www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)

## What has NICE said?

If a person needs to take 2 antidiabetic drugs, empagliflozin (also known as Jardiance) is recommended as a treatment for type 2 diabetes when taken with a drug called metformin, only if the person:

- cannot take a type of drug called a sulfonylurea or
- is at significant risk of hypoglycaemia or its consequences.

If a person needs to take 3 antidiabetic drugs, empagliflozin is recommended as a treatment for type 2 diabetes when taken with either metformin and a sulfonylurea, or with metformin and a type of drug called a thiazolidinedione.

Empagliflozin is also recommended as a treatment for type 2 diabetes when taken with insulin, with or without other antidiabetic drugs.

## What does this mean for me?

If you have type 2 diabetes and your doctor thinks that empagliflozin, as described above, is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

Empagliflozin should be available on the NHS within 3 months of the guidance being issued.

If you are not eligible for treatment as described above, you should be able to continue taking empagliflozin until you and your doctor decide it is the right time to stop.

## Why has NICE said this?

NICE looks at how well treatments work in relation to how much they cost compared with other treatments available on the NHS.

Empagliflozin was recommended because it works as well other treatments available on the NHS, and costs about the same.

## The condition and the treatment(s)

In diabetes the amount of glucose (sugar) in the blood is too high, which can lead to serious health problems. Insulin is a hormone made by the body to control the level of sugar in the blood. Type 2 diabetes occurs when the body can't make enough insulin, or when it can't use the insulin it produces properly.

Empagliflozin works by blocking re-absorption of blood sugar by the kidneys, increasing the amount of sugar removed from the body in the urine. This reduces the amount of sugar in the blood.

NHS Choices ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)) may be a good place to find out more.

## Sources of advice and support

- Black and Ethnic Minority Diabetes Association, 0207 723 5357, [www.bemda.org](http://www.bemda.org)

- Diabetes UK, 0345 123 2399, [www.diabetes.org.uk](http://www.diabetes.org.uk)
- Diabetes Research & Wellness Foundation (DRWF), 0239 263 7808, [www.drwf.org.uk](http://www.drwf.org.uk)
- South Asian Health Foundation, 0203 331 0677, [www.sahf.org.uk](http://www.sahf.org.uk)

NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

ISBN: 978-1-4731-1095-3

## Accreditation

