

Canagliflozin, dapagliflozin and empagliflozin as monotherapies for treating type 2 diabetes

Information for the public

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What has NICE said?

Canagliflozin (Invokana) or dapagliflozin (Forxiga) or empagliflozin (Jardiance), on their own, are recommended as treatment for type 2 diabetes only if:

- blood glucose levels can't be managed by diet and exercise alone
- you cannot take drugs called metformin
- your doctor thinks that drugs called pioglitazone, or a type of drug called sulfonylureas, are not the right choices of treatment
- a type of drug called DPP-4 inhibitors is the only other appropriate choice of treatment.

What does this mean for me?

If you have type 2 diabetes and your doctor thinks that monotherapy with canagliflozin, dapagliflozin or empagliflozin is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

Canagliflozin, dapagliflozin and 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 canagliflozin, dapagliflozin or 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.

Canagliflozin, dapagliflozin and empagliflozin were recommended because the benefits to patients justify their costs in those who cannot take metformin, and when pioglitazone or sulfonylureas are not the right choices of treatment.

The condition and the treatments

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.

Canagliflozin, dapagliflozin and empagliflozin work 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](#) may be a good place to find out more.

Sources of advice and support

- [Diabetes UK](#), 0345 123 2399
- [Diabetes Research & Wellness Foundation](#), 0239 263 7808
- [Black and Ethnic Minority Diabetes Association \(BEMDA\)](#), 0207 723 5357
- [Surya Foundation](#), 0208 398 9292
- [Independent Diabetes Trust](#), 0160 462 2837

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Accreditation

