



Oral hypoglycaemic agents for the treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus

BIGUANIDES - METFORMIN			
DRUG	NOTES	FORMULARY CHOICE	PRECAUTIONS / CONTRA-INDICATIONS / LESS DESIRABLE PATIENT GROUPS
<p>Metformin</p>  <p>Price per month (Dec 2015): 1g twice daily £3.84</p>	<p>Metformin has a cardio-protective effect</p> <p>NICE guidance (NG28):</p> <p><i>Offer standard-release metformin as the initial drug treatment for adults with type 2 diabetes</i></p> <p><i>Gradually increase the dose of standard-release metformin over several weeks to minimise the risk of gastrointestinal side effects in adults with type 2 diabetes.</i></p> <p>For patients unable to swallow tablets consider crushing the standard tablet.</p> <p>The oral powder was discontinued in April 2014. A liquid is on the market but is not cost-effective (£320 per month).</p>	<p>First choice</p>	<p>RENAL IMPAIRMENT (NICE NG28):</p> <p>In adults with type 2 diabetes, review the dose of metformin if the estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) is below 45 ml/minute/1.73m²:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop metformin if the eGFR is below 30 ml/minute/1.73m². • Prescribe metformin with caution for those at risk of a sudden deterioration in kidney function and those at risk of eGFR falling below 45 ml/minute/1.73m². <p>LIVER OR CARDIAC IMPAIRMENT (NICE CG87): The benefits of metformin therapy should be discussed with a person with mild to moderate liver dysfunction or cardiac impairment so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • due consideration can be given to the cardiovascular-protective effects of the drug • an informed decision can be made on whether to continue or stop the metformin. <p>VITAMIN B12 MALABSORPTION</p>

<p>Metformin MR</p>  <p>Price per month (Dec 2015): 2g daily £8.52</p>	<p>NICE guidance (NG28): <i>If an adult with type 2 diabetes experiences gastrointestinal side effects with standard-release metformin, consider a trial of modified-release metformin.</i></p>	<p>Second choice (for patients with proven GI intolerance)</p>	<p>There is a minimal effect on folic acid and an increase in homocysteine. The B12 deficiency can be reversed with calcium.</p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodic B12 measurement in people with type 2 diabetes on metformin, especially those over 50 years and/or taking insulin • Encourage calcium intake in those with lower levels
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