

Sodium-Glucose Cotransporter-2 Inhibitors (SGLT2i)

Information for People with Chronic Kidney Disease

Generic Name	Brand Name
Canagliflozin	Invokana®
Dapagliflozin	Forxiga®
Empagliflozin	Jardiance®

SGLT2i are also available in combination products with other diabetes medication: canagliflozin/metformin (Invokamet®), dapagliflozin/metformin (Xigduo®), empagliflozin/metformin (Synjardy®).

What are SGLT2i and why are they being recommended for me?

- SGLT2i have been used to lower sugar levels in people with diabetes for several years.
- SGLT2i have also been shown to help slow down kidney damage in people with chronic kidney disease (CKD) and prevent or delay the need for dialysis. This medication lowers protein in the urine, blood pressure, and potentially body weight.
- SGLT2i may also help lower the chance of heart attacks, stroke, and episodes of heart failure.

How should I take SGLT2i?

- SGLT2i are taken by mouth once daily in the morning. They can be taken with or without food.
- If you miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the dose that was missed and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not take 2 doses at the same time.

What else do I need to know before taking SGLT2i?

- You should not take SGLT2i on days that you feel sick. If you are unwell (fever,

nausea/vomiting) and are not able to eat or drink, you should not take this medication for a couple of days. You can restart them again as soon as you feel better and are able to eat and drink. If you need to stop them for more than a few days, contact your health care provider.

- SGLT2i may be stopped for medical procedures and during hospitalizations. Please inform your health care provider if you have a planned surgery or procedure where you are required to fast.
- SGLT2i should not be taken during pregnancy, if you are planning to become pregnant, or are breastfeeding.
- SGLT2i will increase the amount of sugar that is passed into the urine. This is why your urine will test positive for sugar while you are taking them.
- People with type 1 diabetes or a history of ketoacidosis should not take SGLT2i without specific medical advice from a diabetes or kidney specialist.

What monitoring will I need?

- Your health care provider will order regular blood and urine tests to check the response to SGLT2i therapy and monitor for side effects.



What are the possible side effects of SGLT2i?

- All medications can cause side effects. Most side effects of SGLT2i are mild, but some rare ones can be more serious. If you notice anything unusual, are worried about a possible side effect, or have any further questions, please contact your doctor or pharmacist.

	Side Effects and What to Do
Most Common	<p>Increased urination and thirst</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SGLT2i may cause you to urinate more often and feel more thirsty than usual. This usually goes away over time. If bothersome, talk to your health care provider. • Be sure to maintain your usual water intake each day to stay well hydrated.
	<p>Changes in kidney function</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SGLT2i commonly causes a small increase in your creatinine level. This is usually mild and not harmful to your kidneys. • Your health care provider should monitor your kidney function.
Less Common	<p>Increased risk of infection (genital or urinary, including yeast)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SGLT2i can increase the chance of getting these infections. Most are easy to treat. Good hygiene practices are recommended. • Talk to your health care provider if you notice symptoms like redness, swelling, itching, unusual discharge, unpleasant odour, or pain when passing urine.
	<p>Decrease in blood pressure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SGLT2i may cause a decrease in blood pressure, which is usually mild. • Monitor your blood pressure regularly. If you are concerned or your blood pressure is much lower than usual or you are dizzy or lightheaded, talk to your health care provider.
Rare	<p>Ketoacidosis (acid accumulation in the blood)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a rare but serious condition that should be treated right away. • Blood sugar is usually high in ketoacidosis, which can be normal in some cases. • Signs of ketoacidosis include nausea, vomiting, lack of appetite, abdominal pain, excessive thirst, difficulty breathing, confusion, unusual fatigue, or sleepiness. If you experience any of these signs, seek medical help right away.

ORN gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the ORN GN Drug Access Task Group in preparing this handout.

The information set out in this medication information sheet is intended to be used by health care providers and patients for informational purposes only. The information is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, drug interactions, or side effects of a certain medication and should not be used to indicate that use of a particular medication is safe, appropriate, or effective for a given condition. A patient should always consult a health care provider if they have any questions regarding the medication or the information set out in this medication information sheet. The information in this medication information sheet is not intended to act as or replace medical advice and should not be relied upon in any such regard.

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