

# *Your Medication*

## **Metformin (Glucophage)**



H-V-205  
W.D. 1/07  
Pg. 1 of 2

### **Why do I need this medicine?**

Metformin is used to help manage blood sugar in people who have Type 2 diabetes. It works by helping your body make less glucose (sugar) from your liver. It does not help your body make more insulin.

If you have any problems with your **kidneys, heart, liver or lungs**, let your health care provider know before you start taking this medicine.

### **How do I take this medicine?**

- Take this medicine just like your health care provider tells you. **Do not** stop taking this medicine unless your health care provider tells you to.
- Take this medicine with food.
- **Do not drink alcohol** while you are taking this medicine unless your health care provider has said it is OK.
- Take this medicine at about the same time each day.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. Be sure to take it with food. **Do not** take two doses at the same time.
- Your health care provider may want you to take this medicine along with other diabetes medicines.
- If you have vomiting, fever, and/or you cannot keep fluids down, tell your health care provider **right away**.



### **What common side effects may I have?**

- Headache
- Weakness
- Nausea (feeling sick to your stomach) or vomiting
- Gas and an upset stomach
- Diarrhea (many watery bowel movements)
- Muscle pain

If you notice any other side effects, tell your health care provider.

(over)

## Call your health care provider or go to the Emergency Room right away if:



- You feel weak.
- You feel more sleepy than usual.
- Your heart beat is slower than usual.
- You have trouble breathing.
- You have fever and chills.
- You have muscle or body aches.
- You feel light-headed and dizzy.
- You faint or fall out.



## What special things do I need to know?

1. Tell all your health care providers and dentists that you are taking this medicine.
2. Tell your health care provider if you are **allergic to any medicine**.
3. Be sure to **keep your appointments** for health care provider visits and blood tests.
4. Too much of this medicine may cause you to have **lactic acidosis**. The signs of this serious problem are listed above. If you have any of these symptoms, go to the **Emergency Room**.
5. Too much of this medicine may also cause **low blood sugar**. Use products that have glucose in them such as orange juice, B-D Glucose Tablets or Insta-Glucose Gel.
6. Tell your health care provider about **all** the other prescription medicines, non-prescription (over-the-counter) medicines, vitamins, supplements, and herbs you may be taking.
7. **Do not** share this medicine with anyone. Do not let anyone else take your medicine.
8. Keep all medicine out of the reach of children. Even a small amount of this medicine may make a child very sick or cause death. Keep all your medicines in a safe place where children cannot get them.
9. If you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breast-feeding, tell your health care provider **before** you take this medicine. **This medicine may have harmful effects on unborn babies**. If you are not using birth control, be sure and tell your doctor.
10. All medicines can cause side effects. Usually, these side effects will get better after a few days. If they do not, you should tell your health care provider. Your health care provider can make some changes in the medicine. **Do not** stop taking the medicine unless your health care provider tells you to. Side effects **do not** mean that you are allergic to the medicine.