



# Keeping your type 2 diabetes in check

Careful control of blood sugar is an essential part of managing your diabetes. This can help reduce your risk of heart attack and stroke, as well as kidney and eye damage.

When you have diabetes, there are also many other things you can do to improve your long-term health.



Pharmaceutical Assistance  
Contract for the Elderly

Balanced information for better care

# What can YOU do to manage your diabetes?

## Work with your healthcare team:

### 1. Lifestyle and medication

- ✓ Eat right, stay active, and maintain a healthy weight.
- ✓ Quit smoking.
- ✓ Take your medicines as directed to help control blood sugar, blood pressure, and cholesterol.

### 2. Know your levels

- ✓ Check your blood glucose as directed.
- ✓ Know your hemoglobin A1c level and have it checked every 3 months.
- ✓ Know your blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

### 3. Have regular check-ups

- ✓ Check your feet every day for sores, swelling, and redness, and see a foot specialist regularly.
- ✓ Tell your doctor if you have trouble with your vision, and have regular check-ups with an eye doctor.

**Make sure that all your health care providers know you have diabetes.**

## Follow a healthy diet

Whatever you eat, choose reasonable portion sizes that are not too large.



### EAT MORE +

- low fat dairy
- whole grains
- fruits & vegetables
- poultry, fish & lean meat

### EAT LESS -

- sugars & sweets
- salt
- alcohol
- fats

## Increase your exercise

Regular, moderate activity can help control your weight and reduce your risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and stroke.

Aim for 30-60 minutes 5-7 days per week. Choose a time of day that works for you, and do a variety of different physical activities that you enjoy.



## Medications to control blood sugar

You may need medicines to help keep your blood glucose levels normal. Continue with your healthy eating, exercise, and weight loss to improve your blood glucose.

Many patients with diabetes will need insulin to control their blood sugar levels. While insulin treatment requires a daily injection, it is simple to use and is very effective.

## Know your levels

See your doctor or nurse at least once every three months to talk about how you are doing.

### Control blood glucose:

- **Blood sugar (glucose)**

**levels:** You can measure your levels with a glucose meter. A normal range for most people is 80 to 120 before meals.



- **Hemoglobin A1c (“A-one-C”):** This blood test shows your average blood sugar levels over the past few months. A good A1c level is 7% for most patients.

### Comparing A1c and blood glucose levels

A1c (%)	Average blood glucose over the last 3 months	
	mg/dL	mmol/L
6	126	7.0
7	154	8.6
8	183	10.2
9	212	11.8
10	240	13.4
11	269	14.9
12	298	16.5

### Blood pressure:

- Blood pressure for most people with diabetes should be 140/80 or lower.



### Cholesterol:

- LDL (“bad cholesterol”) should be below 100, and HDL (“good cholesterol”) above 40.

## Watch for sugar lows

Low blood sugar is called hypoglycemia. It can come on if you don't eat enough or as often as needed. It can also occur if you drink alcohol, take too much medication to lower your glucose, or exercise more than normal.

Call your health care professional right away if you feel dizzy, tired, hungry, shaky, or confused; these can be the symptoms of low blood sugar.

---

## More information

Additional useful information for patients is provided at [AlosaHealth.org/modules/diabetes](https://www.AlosaHealth.org/modules/diabetes)

---

**The Independent Drug Information Service (IDIS)** is supported by the PACE Program of the Department of Aging of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This material is provided by Alosa Health, a nonprofit organization which is not affiliated with any pharmaceutical company. IDIS is a program of Alosa Health.

**These are general recommendations only; specific clinical decisions should be made by the treating physician based on an individual patient's clinical condition.**

[AlosaHealth.org](http://AlosaHealth.org)



Pharmaceutical Assistance  
Contract for the Elderly



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF AGING



**IDIS**

Independent Drug  
Information Service



**Alosa**  
Health

**Balanced information for better care**

Copyright 2016 by Alosa Health. All rights reserved.