

SGLT2 inhibitors

Drug names	Brand names
Dapagliflozin	Forxiga® (with metformin Xigduo®)
Canagliflozin	Invokana® (with metformin Vokanamet®)
Empagliflozin	Jardiance® (with metformin Synjardy®)
Ertugliflozin	Steglatro®

Like all medicines, SGLT2 inhibitors can cause side effects, although not everyone gets them. Side effects often improve as your body gets used to the medicine.

Common side effects

These common side effects happen in more than 1 in 100 people. They're usually mild and do not last long. There are things you can do to help cope with them:

Thrush



[TREND fungal infection leaflet](#)

Follow good genital hygiene to reduce risk:

- Avoiding use of deodorants and perfumed products in and around your intimate area.
- Ensuring you wipe from front to back after going to the toilet.
- Clean and dry urine thoroughly from genital area

Ask your pharmacist to recommend an antifungal treatment for [thrush](#). Speak to your doctor if it does not work within a week or you get thrush often.

Pain or a burning feeling when you pee

These can be signs of a [urinary tract infection \(UTI\)](#).

Take [paracetamol](#), and rest and drink plenty of fluids, to help your body flush out the bacteria. Speak to your doctor if symptoms are not better in 2 or 3 days, or if they get worse at any time.

Peeing more than normal

This may be a sign that your medicine is working and you're peeing out more sugar. Drink lots of water, and other sugar-free fluids, to avoid [dehydration](#).

This can also sometimes be a sign of a [urinary tract infection \(UTI\)](#). Speak to your doctor if it does not get better or if you have other UTI symptoms such as pain when you pee.

Mild skin rash or itchy skin

It may help to take an [antihistamine](#). Check with a pharmacist to see what type is suitable for you. Speak to your doctor if the rash or itching does not go away or gets worse.

Hypoglycaemia

Early warning signs of low blood sugar ([hypoglycaemia](#) or a “hypo”) include:

- feeling hungry
- trembling or shaking
- sweating
- confusion
- difficulty concentrating

Contact 111 straight away if taking in sugar does not help within 10 to 15 minutes, or the hypo symptoms come back.

Speak to a doctor or pharmacist if the advice on how to cope does not help and a side effect is still bothering you or does not go away.

Serious side effects

Diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) (rare)



[TREND diabetes DKA leaflet](#)

[Diabetic ketoacidosis \(DKA\)](#) is what happens when your body starts to run low on insulin. Harmful substances, called ketones, build up in the body. Signs of DKA can include:

- feeling or being sick
- feeling very thirsty
- feeling confused or unusually tired
- having stomach pain
- breath that smells fruity (like pear drop sweets, or nail varnish)
- breathing more deeply or faster

If you have diabetes, your team or nurse will show you how to monitor your ketone and blood sugar levels if necessary, and what to do if this happens. You'll learn how to recognise the symptoms of DKA and what to do about it.

Fournier's gangrene (very rare)

Contact your doctor or 111 straight away if you notice any pain, tenderness redness, or swelling in the groin or perineal area accompanied by a high temperature or feeling unwell. The perineum is the area of skin between your genitals and your back passage (anus).

Allergic reaction (rare)

In rare cases, it's possible to have a serious allergic reaction ([anaphylaxis](#)). Call 999 if you think someone is having an anaphylactic reaction.

Sick day rules

If you become unwell, at risk of dehydration or need surgery, your doctor may recommend that you stop taking your SGLT2 until you've recovered, to reduce the risk of DKA. Talk to your specialist team about 'sick day rules' during your review appointment.

These are not all the side effects of SGLT2s. For a full list, see the leaflet inside your medicines packet.