

Canagliflozin taken with other drugs for treating type 2 diabetes

Information for the public

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What has NICE said?

If a person needs to take 2 antidiabetic drugs, canagliflozin is recommended as a possible treatment for people with type 2 diabetes when taken with a drug called metformin, only if the person:

- cannot take a type of drug called a sulfonylurea or
- is at significant risk of hypoglycaemia or its consequences.

If a person needs to take 3 antidiabetic drugs, canagliflozin is recommended as a possible treatment when taken with either metformin and a sulfonylurea, or metformin and a type of drug called a thiazolidinedione.

Canagliflozin is recommended as a possible treatment taken with insulin, with or without other antidiabetic drugs.

What does this mean for me?

If you have type 2 diabetes, and your doctor thinks that canagliflozin, as described above, is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

Canagliflozin should be available on the NHS within 3 months of the guidance being issued.

If you are not eligible for treatment as described above, you should be able to continue taking canagliflozin until you and your doctor decide it is the right time to stop.

Why has NICE said this?

Canagliflozin was recommended because it works as well other treatments available on the NHS, and costs about the same.

NICE looks at how well treatments work in relation to how much they cost compared with other treatments available on the NHS.

The condition and the treatment

In diabetes the amount of glucose (sugar) in the blood is too high, which can lead to serious health problems. Insulin is a hormone made by the body to control the level of glucose in the blood. Type 2 diabetes occurs when the body can't make enough insulin, or when it can't use the insulin it produces properly.

Canagliflozin (also known as Invokana) works by increasing the amount of sugar removed from the body in the urine. This reduces the amount of sugar in the blood.

NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) may be a good place to find out more.

Sources of advice and support

- BEMDA (Black and Ethnic Minority Diabetes Association), 020 7723 5357 www.bemda.org/index.html
- Diabetes UK, 0345 123 2399 www.diabetes.org.uk
- Diabetes Research & Wellness Foundation, 023 926 37808 www.drwf.org.uk
- South Asian Health Foundation www.sahf.org.uk

NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

Medical terms explained

Hypoglycaemia

Hypoglycaemia is an abnormally low level of sugar (glucose) in the blood. This can cause feelings of hunger, trembling or shakiness, and sweating. In more severe cases, there can also be confusion and difficulty concentrating. In some severe cases, the person experiencing hypoglycaemia will lose consciousness.

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Accreditation

