

What to do when you have Type 2 diabetes

An easy read guide



DIABETES UK
CARE. CONNECT. CAMPAIGN.

What is diabetes?



Sometimes your body does not make enough insulin.

Sometimes your body can't use insulin properly.



Insulin helps you to use blood sugar. It helps you to be active.

People with diabetes get too much sugar in their blood.

Diabetes can happen to anyone.



You will always have diabetes, but the right treatment will help you to stay well.



Type 2 diabetes

There are 2 kinds of diabetes - **Type 1** and **Type 2**.
We have got **Type 2** diabetes.



Type 2 diabetes usually starts in people after the age of 40.

See a doctor

Go to a doctor. Your doctor will give you a check-up.



Your doctor will tell you what diabetes is.

See a nurse

You can talk to the nurse about diabetes.



See a dietitian

You might get to see a dietitian who knows about food and health.



They will help you to choose the right foods to eat.

Useful information

Your doctor or nurse will tell you about Diabetes UK and how it can help you.



Will I feel better?

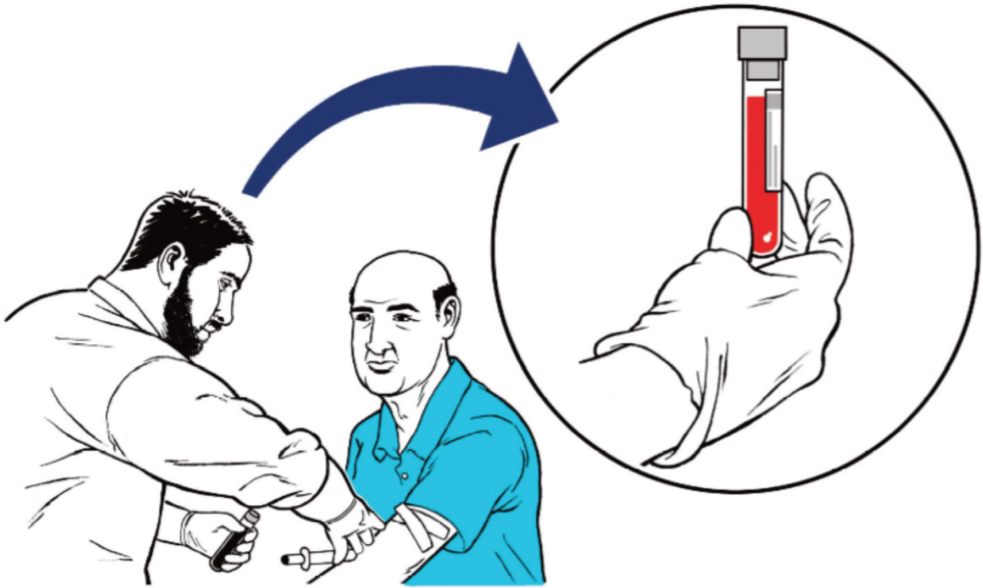


Sometimes you may feel unwell.

This could be because your blood sugar is too high or too low.

What is blood sugar?

Sometimes you need a blood test to check your blood sugar.



Your body makes blood sugar when you eat bread, potatoes, and sweet things like biscuits.

High blood sugar

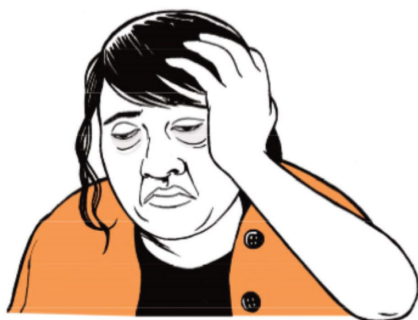
How do you know if your blood sugar is **high**?



- You may feel very thirsty.



- You may go to the loo a lot.



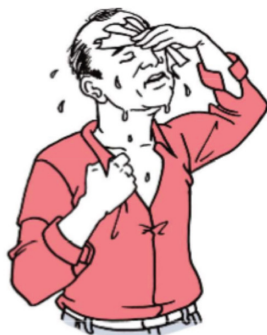
- You may feel more tired than usual.

Low blood sugar

How do you know if your blood sugar is **low**?



- You may feel shaky or dizzy.



- You may feel sweaty.



- You may feel very tired and grumpy.

What should I do?

Make sure that you:

Take the right
medicine



Eat the right
food



Have regular
exercise



If you still feel unwell,
you must see your
doctor or nurse.

Your treatment



As your body does not make enough insulin or does not use it properly, you may need to take tablets.



- Sometimes you may need injections.



- You need to eat a healthy diet.



- You need to exercise.

Your treatment



As your body does not make enough insulin or does not use it properly, you may need to take tablets.



- Sometimes you may need injections.



- You need to eat a healthy diet.



- You need to exercise.

Eat regular meals

Don't miss meals.

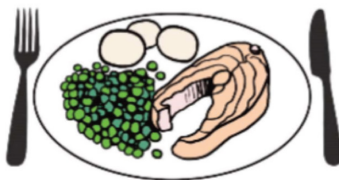
They will help your body to stay healthy.



Breakfast



Lunch



Dinner

Choose the right foods

Choose good healthy foods.

Eat fruit and vegetable, beans and lentils, meat, fish and dairy products.



Fruit and vegetables

Try to eat 5 servings every day.



Bread, rice, potatoes, pasta and other starchy foods

Try to eat some of these every day.



Meat, fish, eggs, nuts, beans, milk and dairy foods

You can eat some of these every day.

Be careful with these foods

Some foods have a lot of fat and sugar in them.
Don't eat too much of them.



Chips



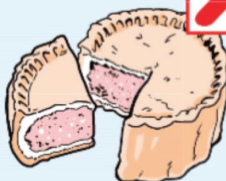
Butter or margarine



Cakes & biscuits



Cheese



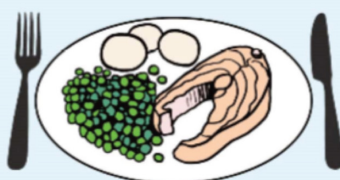
Pastry



Crisps & snacks

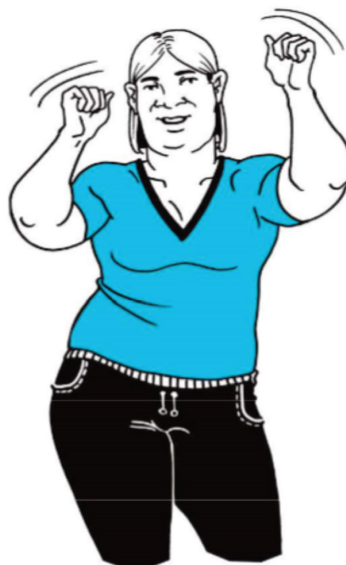


Sugary fizzy drinks



Choose low-fat foods.

Exercise is good for you



When you are ill

If you are ill or have a cold, you must still take your tablets for diabetes. **This is very important.**



But if you are being sick or have diarrhoea, call your doctor or nurse for advice.

Check-ups

It is important to have regular check-ups.

You should see your doctor or nurse at least once every year for a full check-up.



You can tell the doctor or nurse if you have any problems with your diabetes.

Check-ups

You will need to have check-ups for:



Your feet



Your eyes



Your diet



Your blood pressure



The doctor or nurse may check your wee or take some blood

Remember

It is very important to follow the treatment you are given properly.



Remember



Eat the right foods



Take the medication at the right time



Take some exercise to stay fit



If you do all of this it will help you to keep well.



If you are worried about any of this, talk to your doctor or nurse.

More information

For more information contact:

DiABETES UK
CARE. CONNECT. CAMPAIGN.



Diabetes UK
Macleod House
10 Parkway
London, NW1 7AA

Web: www.diabetes.org.uk

Telephone Diabetes UK Careline:

Tel: [REDACTED]

(calls may be recorded for quality and training purposes)

Email: [REDACTED]



This leaflet has been made by:

DiABETES UK
CARE. CONNECT. CAMPAIGN.

The leading UK diabetes charity that cares for, connects with and campaigns alongside people with or at risk of diabetes.



With help from CHANGE, a leading national human rights organisation led by disabled people.

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www.changepeople.org

NHS
*National Institute for
Health Research*


UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

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