

# Sodium-Glucose Co-Transporter 2 Inhibitors (SGLT2 Inhibitors)



This information leaflet has been developed to inform you of the possible side effects from the medication you are taking for your diabetes called sodium-glucose co-transporter 2 inhibitors also known as SGLT2 inhibitors and includes the following medication:

**Dapagliflozin or Forxiga**

**Canagliflozin or Invokana**

**Empagliflozin or Jardiance**

These medicines are effective treatments for type 2 diabetes.

They are recommended by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) for this purpose. They may also help lower weight and blood pressure.

Common side effects include an increased risk of genital thrush, urine infections and passing more urine, which may lead to mild dehydration.

It is therefore important that you maintain an adequate fluid intake whilst taking this medication.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have recently advised that some patients using this medication may be at risk from developing **Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA)**.

This can happen even when blood glucose concentration is normal.

## What is Diabetic ketoacidosis?

This is a potentially life-threatening complication of diabetes caused by a lack of insulin in the body.

It occurs when the body is unable to use blood sugar (glucose) because there isn't enough insulin.

Instead, it breaks down fat as an alternative source of fuel.

This side effect is rare, affecting between 1 in 1000 and 1 in 10,000 patients taking an SGLT2 inhibitor, and usually occurs in patients with the factors listed below.

## Risk Factors

**The following factors may increase your risk of developing Diabetic Ketoacidosis whilst using this medication and include:**

- Type 1 diabetes
- History of pancreatitis
- Severe illness that prevents you from eating and drinking as normal e.g. diarrhoea and/or vomiting
- If your diabetes is treated with insulin and there is a sudden reduction in insulin dose
- Major surgery requiring a general anaesthetic
- Alcohol abuse

## Signs and Symptoms of Diabetic Ketoacidosis

- Stomach pains
- Feeling sick and / or vomiting
- Fast and deep breathing
- Sleepiness
- Sweet smell to the breath and / or Sweet or metallic taste in the mouth
- Rapid weight loss

**If you have any of the symptoms described, you need to seek URGENT advice and STOP taking the medication.**

**If you are taking insulin you should continue insulin treatment.**

**Take this information leaflet with you and show it to the doctor or nurse you see, ask them to read the information below**

**DO NOT RESTART this medication unless advised to by your diabetes healthcare professional.**

### Advice for Health Care Professionals

This patient has been prescribed an SGLT2 inhibitor which can cause Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA).

In patients taking these tablets DKA can occur even if blood glucose levels are **not raised**.

If this patient is unwell please test his / her urine or blood for ketones and refer for urgent advice if positive.

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For Further information on this leaflet please contact:

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### If you require a special edition of this leaflet

This leaflet is available in large print, Braille, on audio tape or disk and in other languages on request. Please contact:

**Tel No: 0151 529 2906**

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