



2018 Diabetes Rx Review Guide

If you or a family member covered under your health plan have a diagnosis of diabetes, knowing the cost of medications can help you make a more informed decision when selecting a plan.

This guide developed by the District of Columbia Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking provides an overview of 24 commonly prescribed drugs to treat diabetes. For each insurance company offering plans for sale on DC Health Link, the charts on the next page depict the name of each drug along with the corresponding drug formulary tier.

Each insurance company uses different language to explain its drug tiering. Reference the charts on the next page alongside your potential plans' Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC) to get an idea of your out-of-pocket prescription cost. Generally, the key below the charts displays tiers from least expensive (often generic drugs) to most expensive (often specialty drugs). Once you have identified the drug's cost-sharing tier, use each plan's SBC on DC Health Link to find the actual out-of-pocket cost-sharing of the drug.

In rare cases, a drug on one company's higher-cost tier (e.g., Non-Preferred Brand) may in fact cost less than the same drug placed on another company's lower cost tier (e.g., Preferred Brand). As you consider different plan options, also check your SBC to see whether your cost-sharing on prescription drugs will apply before or after you reach your deductible.



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Covered Oral Type II Diabetes Medication		District of Columbia Insurance Companies							
		Aetna		CareFirst		Kaiser		United Healthcare	
Name (Generic)	Name (Brand)	Generic	Brand	Generic	Brand ¹	Generic	Brand	Generic	Brand
Metformin	Glucophage	G	N/C	G	NP	G	NP	G	NP
Generic not available	Glumetza	N/C	N/C	G	NP	G	NP	N/C	N/C
Generic not available	Riomet		N/C		NP		NP		NP
Glipizide	Glucotrol	G	N/C	G	NP	G	NP	G	NP
Glimepiride	Amaryl	G	N/C	G	NP	G	NP	G	NP
Acarbose	Precose	G	N/C	G	PB	G	NP	G	NP
Generic not available	Glyset	NP	N/C	G	NP	G	NP	PB	NP
Generic not available	Januvia		PB		PB		NP		NP
Nateglinide	Starlix	G	N/C	G	NP	G	NP	PB	NP
Repaglinide	Prandin	NP	N/C	G	NP	G	NP	PB	NP
Glyburide	DiaBeta, Micronase	G	N/C	G	NP	G	NP	G	NP
Glyburide	Glynase, PresTab	G	N/C	G	NP	G	NP	G	NP
Chlorpropamide	Diabinese	G	N/A	G	N/A	G	N/A	G	N/A
Pioglitazone	Actos	G	N/C	G	NP	G	NP	G	N/C
Generic not available	Avandia		NP		N/C		NP		NP

Covered Insulin and Other Injectable Diabetes Medications		District of Columbia Insurance Companies			
		Aetna	CareFirst	Kaiser	United Healthcare
Name (Brand)					
Apidra		NP (vial & pen)	NP (vial & pen)	NP (vial and pen)	NP (vial and pen)
Humalog		PB (vial & pen)	NP (vial & pen)	PB (vial) NP (pen)	G (vial); PB (pen)
Humalog Mix		PB(vial &pen)	NP (vial & pen)	NP (vial & pen)	G(vial); PB(pen)
NovoLog		NP (vial & Pen)	PB (vial & pen)	NP (vial & pen)	NP (vial and pen)
Humulin R (all strengths except U-500)		PB (vial & pen)	NP (vial & pen)	PB (vial & pen)	G (vial); PB (pen)
Novolin		N/C (vial & pen)	PB (vial & pen)	NP (vial & pen)	NP (vial)
Levemir		PB (vial & pen)	PB (vial & pen)	NP (vial & pen)	PB (vial and pen)
Lantus		NP (vial & pen)	N/C	PB (vial) NP (pen)	N/C
Basaglar		N/C	PB	NP	G
Byetta (exenatide)		NP (pen)	NP (vial & pen)	NP (vial & pen)	PB (pen)
Symlin (pramlintide)		NP (pen)	PB (vial & pen)	NP(vial & pen)	NP (pen)

Note: Formularies are subject to change during the plan year. Please contact your insurance company for the most up to date information.

Key				
	Aetna	CareFirst	Kaiser	United Healthcare
G	Preferred Generic	Generic	Generic	Tier 1
PB	Preferred Brand	Preferred Brand	Preferred Brand	Tier 2
NP	Non-preferred generic/brand	Non-preferred brand	Non-preferred brand	Tier 3
SP	Preferred/non-preferred specialty	Preferred/Non-preferred specialty	Specialty	-----
N/C	Not Covered			
N/A	Not Available			

¹ **CareFirst:** Enrollees must fill out a prior authorization if they wish to obtain a branded drug when there is a generic available.



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