



2016 Diabetes Rx Review Guide

If you or a family member covered under your health plan has 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.



2016 Diabetes Rx Review Guide

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

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

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
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	Specialty	Specialty	N/A

A note on cost-sharing: All plans offer a discount for accessing a 90-day supply (three months) of a medication instead of a 30-day supply (one month), often equal to one month free.

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



Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking (DISB)

Government of the District of Columbia

810 First Street, NE, Suite 701, Washington, DC 20002

Office: 202-727-8000 | Fax: 202-576-7989

Web: disb.dc.gov | Email: disb.communications@dc.gov | Follow us on Twitter @DCDISB

