

Medication Information

GLP 1 Receptor Agonist

Exenatide

(Ex – en – a – tide)

Other names for this medication

Byetta

How this medication is used

This medication is used to treat diabetes. It lowers the amount of sugar in the blood by helping the pancreas make more insulin when you eat. It also lowers the amount of sugar in the blood by slowing your digestion.

How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as advised by your doctor or diabetes health care provider. This medication comes in a pre-filled injection pen and is injected 2 times a day. Inject each dose before your breakfast and evening meal. You may inject up to 1 hour before your meal.

Make sure these 2 doses are least 6 hours apart.

This medication should not be injected after a meal.

Your doctor or diabetes health care provider will show you how to inject yourself and what dose to use. Follow the directions carefully.

If you miss a dose of this medication and you have already eaten, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular time. Do not take 2 doses at one time.

How to store this medication

Store any unopened packs in a fridge. Once in use, it can be kept for up to 30 days at room temperature.

While taking this medication you may notice

- nausea
- vomiting
- diarrhea
- dizziness
- headache
- constipation

This medication is unlikely to cause low blood sugar when used alone. However, when it is used with other medications or taken with insulin, low blood sugar can occur.

Some signs of low blood sugar are:

- dizziness
- clammy skin
- cold sweat
- tiredness
- slurred speech
- shakiness
- headache
- mood change

Check your blood sugar if you feel any of these symptoms.

If your blood sugar is below 4.0 mmol/L:

1. Take 15 grams of a fast acting carbohydrate right away.
Taking 15 grams of a fast acting carbohydrate will raise your blood sugar quickly. Examples of 15 grams of fast acting carbohydrates are:
 - Chew glucose or dextrose tablets. Read the package to know how many you need to chew to make 15 grams **or**
 - Drink 175 ml or $\frac{3}{4}$ cup orange juice **or**
 - Drink 175 ml or $\frac{3}{4}$ cup regular pop
2. Wait 15 minutes and check your blood sugar again.
3. If your blood sugar is still below 4.0 mmol/L, treat again with 15 grams of a fast acting carbohydrate listed above.
4. Repeat these steps until your blood sugar is in your target level.
5. If your next meal or snack is more than 1 hour away, you need to eat $\frac{1}{2}$ sandwich or 6 crackers with cheese to keep your blood sugar greater than 4.0 mmol/L.

You can talk to your diabetes care provider or pharmacist about other fast acting carbohydrates to carry with you to prevent or treat low blood sugar.

Contact your doctor, diabetes health care provider or go to Emergency if you notice

- rash, hives
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat
- trouble breathing
- trouble swallowing
- severe stomach pain, nausea and/or vomiting