

SGLT2 inhibitors

This class of medication has several benefits including reducing blood sugars for better diabetic control, reducing weight and reducing risks of complications of heart and kidney disease in certain groups.

Includes;

Canaglifozin (Invokana)

Dapaglifozin (Forxiga)

Empaglifozin (Jardiance)

Upon careful consideration to the individual, this effective medication may be recommended by a Health Professional when the benefits outweigh the risk of side effects. However, it is important to be aware of possible side effects and to seek medical attention when they occur. These include;

- **Increased risk of urinary tract infections** (1/100)
- **Diabetic ketoacidosis / 'DKA'** (1/1,000 to 1/10,000)

A rare but potentially life threatening build up of ketone acids in the blood stream.

**** Seek urgent medical review if you develop symptoms such as vomiting, abdominal pain, rapid breathing, rapid weight loss or drowsiness**** Your assessing clinician will check your Ketone levels in event of this.

You can reduce the risk of DKA by

- A) Avoiding alcohol excess
- B) Keeping well hydrated (typically 2 litres fluid / day)
- C) Avoiding a very low carbohydrate (ketogenic) diet
- D) Pausing treatment if acutely unwell with serious illness (such as vomiting or severe infection) or undergoing surgery. It is important to seek advice of a medical professional in such events.

See the following TREND link for further information;

https://trenddiabetes.online/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/A5_DKA_TREND.pdf

- **Fournier's gangrene (approx. 1/10,000)**

A very rare but potentially life threatening infection of the genital area. This risk has been identified post marketing release of the Glifozin class of medication.

****Seek urgent medical review if you develop severe pain or tenderness/ redness/ swelling in the genital or groin area****

If you have any questions about this medication, please discuss this with your Healthcare professional at your next appointment.