

# Starting your Ozempic® treatment

This brochure has been developed to provide you with information about diabetes and your medication, and to help answer any questions you may have. We recommend you read through this entire brochure before you start taking Ozempic® so that you can get the most out of your treatment.









# Need help getting started with Ozempic®?

Chat with a Certified Diabetes Educator at Ozempic.ca\*



The OzempicCare® Patient Support Program is here to help.

- One-on-one device training (telephone or video call)
- Educational resources to support you on your diabetes management journey



Book an appointment at Ozempic.ca\* or call 1-833-667-3475

The Ozempic® DIN can be found on the Ozempic® pen carton. Ozempic® 0.25/0.5 mg pen: DIN 02540258 Ozempic® 1 mg pen: DIN 02471469



Please see the Patient Information leaflet for more information or contact your healthcare professional with any questions you may have about type 2 diabetes or your Ozempic® treatment.

<sup>\*</sup> Ozempic.ca is open to the general public.

# **Diabetes and you**

As a person living with type 2 diabetes, you probably already know a lot about it through discussions with your diabetes healthcare team, and perhaps through your own research. You've also probably talked to or educated your friends and family about diabetes, which is important since they can be part of your support system.

## Did you know?

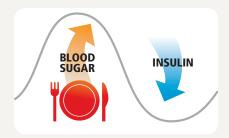


~537 million adults are affected by diabetes worldwide

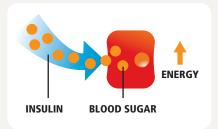


4 million Canadians are living with diabetes and this number is expected to reach 5 million by 2032

## Your body's relationship with sugar



After eating, your body breaks down food into sugar, which travels through the blood to the cells of your body.



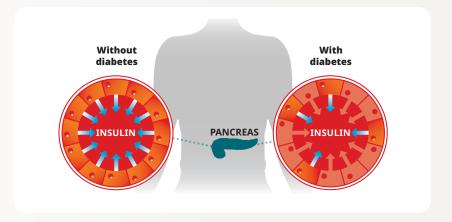
Insulin is a hormone that helps blood sugar enter your cells where it can be used for energy. For this reason, insulin is important to help control your blood sugar levels.

# **Diabetes and you**

People living with type 2 diabetes have an impairment in this process because:

- 1 The pancreas doesn't make enough insulin, or
- The cells in your body become resistant to the insulin your body makes.

This results in sugar accumulating in your blood instead of being used to create energy.



Remember, if you have any further questions or concerns, your healthcare team is an excellent resource for information on managing your diabetes.

# Welcome to Ozempic®!

# With your doctor, you've decided to start a new treatment to help manage your diabetes

Ozempic® is a type 2 diabetes medicine that can help you lower your blood sugar.

Ozempic® is used in combination with one or more other medicines for diabetes when they are not enough to control your blood sugar levels. These other medicines may include: oral antihyperglycemic agents (such as metformin, sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 inhibitors [SGLT2i] or sulfonylurea medicines) or insulin.

Ozempic<sup>®</sup> is a GLP-1 RA (glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist) that is:



A medication for adults with type 2 diabetes



Not an insulin

Ozempic® is similar to the natural hormone, GLP-1, that is released from the body after eating.

## **How does Ozempic® work?**



When blood sugar levels are increased, Ozempic® helps your body produce more insulin.



# Your Ozempic® pen

To become more familiar with the Ozempic® pen, review the illustrations and instructions on the next page and **be sure to refer to the full instructions for use in the Patient Information leaflet**.

Training on how to take Ozempic® is very important. You should not use the pen until your healthcare professional has trained you on how to use it properly.

Ozempic<sup>®</sup> is available in a carton of one disposable pre-filled multi-dose pen.

## Storing your Ozempic® pen



### **Before opening**

Store in a refrigerator at 2°C to 8°C, and keep it away from the cooling element. Do not freeze.



## After opening

You can keep the pen for 8 weeks when stored at a temperature below 30°C or in a refrigerator (2°C to 8°C). Do not freeze.

When you are not using the pen, keep the pen cap on to protect it from light.

Once empty, the Ozempic® pen, including the needle, should be placed in a sharps disposal container.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

# Starting Ozempic®

Start at

0.25 mg
for 4 weeks

Increase to

0.5 mg
maintenance dose

check blood sugar after 4 weeks

If needed, increase to

1 mg

maintenance dose<sup>†</sup>

• if blood sugar not controlled enough with 0.5 mg dose

### The starting dose

of Ozempic® is **0.25 mg** once a week for 4 weeks.

### After 4 weeks,

your dose should be increased to **0.5 mg** once a week.

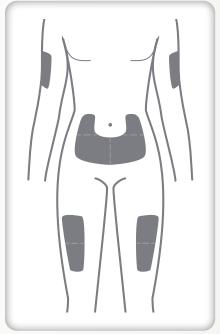
**Your doctor** may decide to **increase your dose to 1 mg** once a week, if your blood sugar is not controlled enough with the 0.5 mg dose.

Do not change your dose unless your doctor has told you to.



# How to take Ozempic®

The best places on your body to inject Ozempic® are the front of your thighs, the front of your waist (abdomen) or your upper arms.





Learn how to use your pen Scan this code to watch a demonstration administration video.



# How to use your pre-filled Ozempic<sup>®</sup> pen

#### Please refer to the full instructions for use in the Patient Information leaflet.



**STEP 1:** Check the name and coloured label of your pen to make sure you are taking the correct dose.

The red label indicates a 0.25 or 0.5 mg dose; the blue label indicates a 1 mg dose. (This is especially important if you take more than one type of injectable medicine. Using the wrong medicine could be harmful to your health.)

#### Attach a new needle.

Make sure your pen contains **clear and colourless** Ozempic<sup>®</sup>. Screw on a new needle and pull off **both** needle caps.

You must remove both caps. If you forget to remove both caps, you will not inject any solution.



#### STEP 2: Check the flow

With each **new** pen, turn the dose selector to select the **flow check symbol**. Press and hold in the dose button. Repeat until a drop appears.

If no drop appears after up to 6 tries, change the needle and repeat step 2. If a drop still doesn't appear, dispose of the pen and use a new one.



#### **STEP 3:** Select your dose

Turn the dose selector right past '0' until the dose counter shows your dose (0.25 mg or 0.5 mg).

If you are using the 1 mg pre-filled pen, turn the dose selector until the dose counter stops at 1 mg.



#### **STEP 4:** Inject your dose

Always use the dose counter and the dose pointer to see how many mg you have selected before injecting this medicine.

Only doses of 0.25 mg or 0.5 mg must be selected with the dose selector.

Insert the needle. Press and hold down the dose button.

After the dose counter reaches 0, slowly count to 6 while keeping the dose button pressed.



#### STEP 5: Remove the needle

Carefully remove the needle from your skin and release the dose button.

Carefully –

- Put the outer needle cap completely back on.
- Unscrew the needle and dispose of it.
- Put the pen cap back on.

# When to take your dose of Ozempic<sup>®</sup>

You should use Ozempic® once a week on the same day each week. You do not need to take it with meals.

Work with your healthcare team to determine the day of the week that works best for you to take your dose of Ozempic<sup>®</sup>.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

It is recommended to note the chosen weekday (e.g., Wednesday) on your Ozempic® carton. You can also write the date on the carton every time you have injected Ozempic®.

To help you remember to take your dose, consider pairing it with an activity you enjoy each week.



## What to do if you miss your dose of Ozempic®

First, ask yourself how long it's been since you were supposed to inject your dose.

### If it's been 5 days or less

since you were supposed to use Ozempic®, use it as soon as you remember. Then inject your next dose as usual on your scheduled day.

### If it's been more than 5 days

since you were supposed to use Ozempic<sup>®</sup>, skip the missed dose. Then inject your next dose as usual on your scheduled day.

## **Important note:**

Do not take an extra dose or increase the dose to make up for a missed dose.

# Possible side effects

# Like all medicines, Ozempic® may cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

#### Possible risk of thyroid tumours, including cancer

- While taking Ozempic®, tell your doctor if you get a lump or swelling in your neck, hoarseness, trouble swallowing or shortness of breath. These may be symptoms of thyroid cancer.
- Do not use Ozempic<sup>®</sup> if you or any of your family have ever had a type of thyroid cancer called medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC), or if you have an endocrine system condition called Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia syndrome type 2 (MEN 2).
- You should discuss any safety concerns you have about the use of Ozempic<sup>®</sup> with your doctor.

# The most common side effects (affecting more than 1 in 10 people) are:

- Nausea (feeling sick) These usually
- Diarrhea

These usually diminish over time

 Low blood sugar (hypoglycemia) when Ozempic<sup>®</sup> is used with a sulfonylurea or insulin

The warning signs of low blood sugar may come on suddenly. They can include: cold sweat, cool pale skin, headache, fast heartbeat, feeling sick (nausea) or very hungry, changes in vision, feeling sleepy or weak, feeling nervous, anxious or confused, difficulty concentrating or shaking.

Your doctor will tell you how to treat low blood sugar and what to do if you notice these warning signs.



## Tips for managing side effects

The most common side effects of Ozempic® are gastrointestinal-related (nausea and diarrhea); however, there are a few things you can try that may help, such as:

- Eat smaller, more frequent meals
- Avoid high-fat and high-fibre foods and beverages
- Eat soft, well-cooked foods
- Thoroughly chew your food

- Avoid carbonated, fizzy or alcoholic beverages
- Drink plenty of water
- Do some gentle physical activity after meals, like walking
- Avoid lying down for 2 hours after a meal

Talk with your healthcare professional if you experience any side effects. They may be able to offer advice on how to manage them.

For the full list of possible side effects, please see the Patient Information leaflet.

If you experience any side effects, speak with your healthcare professional.

# Frequently asked questions

## Q: When should I take Ozempic®?

**A:** You should take your dose of Ozempic® once a week on the same day each week. You can take it regardless of meals.

## Q: How should I take Ozempic®?

A: Ozempic® is given as an injection under the skin. The best places to use Ozempic® are the front of your thighs, the front of your waist (abdomen) or your upper arms.

To learn more about injecting Ozempic<sup>®</sup>, review the "How to take Ozempic<sup>®</sup>" instructions on page 6 and **refer to the full instructions for use in the Patient Information leaflet**.

## Q: Should I take Ozempic® with a meal?

**A:** You can take Ozempic® regardless of meals. You should take it once a week.

# Q: What should I do if I've missed a dose of Ozempic®?

**A:** If you ever miss or forget to take a dose, here is what you should do:

- ✓ If it has been **5 days or less** since you missed your dose of Ozempic®, use it as soon as you can remember. Then inject your next dose as usual on your scheduled day.
- If it has been more than 5 days since you missed your dose of Ozempic®, skip the missed dose. Then take your next dose as usual on your regularly scheduled day.

Do not take an extra dose or increase the dose to make up for a missed dose.

# Q: What do I do if I want to switch the day I take Ozempic®?

**A:** If necessary, you can change the day you take your weekly Ozempic® dose as long as it has been at least 2 days since your last dose. After selecting a new dosing day, continue taking it once a week.

Do not stop using Ozempic® without talking to your healthcare professional. If you stop using it, your blood sugar levels may increase.



# **Discussion points**

If you wish, you may use the space on this page to write down any questions you want to ask your healthcare professional about Ozempic® or your type 2 diabetes treatment.







