



# SGLT2 inhibitors and diabetic ketoacidosis in Type 2 Diabetes

Information for patients



## WHY HAVE I BEEN GIVEN THIS LEAFLET?

You are taking, or about to take, one of the following tablets to help manage your diabetes:

- ❖ empagliflozin (Jardiance)
- ❖ canagliflozin (Invokana)
- ❖ dapagliflozin (Forxiga)

You should stop taking the above mentioned tablets if you become unwell at any time e.g. flu-like symptoms, chest or urinary infection, vomiting, diarrhoea.

Contact your GP or Diabetes Specialist Nurse if your blood glucose levels are higher than usual. Symptoms of this include increased thirst, passing more urine than usual, tiredness and lethargy.

There is some important information about these drugs that you should be aware of:

## WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

People taking any of these drugs for diabetes can develop an unusual complication called diabetic ketoacidosis.

This complication can lead to the build up of too much acid in your blood. This can happen **even when your blood glucose concentration is normal**. This can make you very ill and if it is not picked up early, it can be dangerous. However, this is a **rare** complication and it is still safe to take the drug if you know what to look out for.

## WHAT SHOULD I LOOK OUT FOR?

This complication is more likely to happen if you are unwell for another reason. It is still important that you follow the advice from your Diabetes Team about testing your blood sugar when you are unwell.

If you are taking any of these tablets, please look out for these symptoms: nausea, vomiting, fast breathing, abdominal pains, unusual drowsiness or fever.

If you have any of these symptoms, please contact a medical professional immediately, such as a doctor or nurse, even if your blood sugars are not very high.

If your GP practice is closed, please phone NHS 24 on 111 for more advice.

You will need to tell them that you are worried about having **“Diabetic keto-acid-osis”**

### **STOP TAKING THIS MEDICATION UNTIL YOU HAVE RECEIVED MEDICAL ADVICE**

## IS THERE ANYTHING MORE LIKELY TO CAUSE THIS?

This problem can develop at any time but is more likely to happen if you are unwell for another reason:

- ❖ You need to be especially careful if you develop an infection (like a chest or urine infection)
- ❖ You also need to inform the team looking after you if you have emergency surgery
- ❖ If you are planning to have an operation or any other procedure which involves fasting overnight, please discuss this medication with your doctor or nurse.
- ❖ You may need to stop your tablets around the time of the procedure but you should be able to start them again a few days later.

# IF I FEEL UNWELL, WHAT WILL MY DOCTOR OR NURSE DO?

- ❖ You will have a finger prick blood test to test for the amount of sugar in your blood.
- ❖ You will also have a urine test to look for ketones (a breakdown product of fat)
- ❖ If the levels of ketones are high, your doctor or nurse will contact the Diabetes Specialist team or your local hospital admitting team for further advice

**Please retain this leaflet for future information**

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