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2. [Glucophage XR](#)

Glucophage XR

Generic name: [metformin](#) [*met-FOR-min*]

Brand names: [Glumetza](#), MetFORMIN (Eqv-Fortamet), MetFORMIN (Eqv-Glucophage XR), MetFORMIN (Eqv-Glumetza), [Fortamet](#), Glucophage XR, [Riomet ER](#)

Drug class: [Non-sulfonylureas](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Apr 23, 2024. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

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The Glucophage XR brand name has been **discontinued** in the U.S. If generic versions of this product have been approved by the FDA, there may be [generic equivalents available](#).

What is Glucophage XR?

[Glucophage XR](#) is used together with diet and exercise to improve blood sugar control in adults with type 2 [diabetes mellitus](#).

Glucophage XR is sometimes used together with insulin or other medications, but **this medicine is not for treating type 1 diabetes**.

Glucophage XR may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Glucophage XR side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Some people using Glucophage XR develop [lactic acidosis](#), which can be fatal. **Get emergency medical help if you have even mild symptoms such as:**

- unusual [muscle pain](#);
- feeling cold;
- trouble breathing;
- feeling dizzy, light-headed, tired, or very weak;
- stomach pain, vomiting; or
- slow or irregular heart rate.

Common side effects of Glucophage XR may include:

- [low blood sugar](#);
- nausea, [upset stomach](#); or
- diarrhea.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Glucophage XR side effects](#) (more detail)

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Warnings

You should not use Glucophage XR if you have severe kidney disease, [metabolic acidosis](#), or [diabetic ketoacidosis](#) (call your doctor for treatment).

If you need to have any type of x-ray or CT scan using a dye that is injected into your veins, you may need to temporarily stop taking Glucophage XR.

You may develop **lactic acidosis**, a dangerous build-up of lactic acid in your blood. Call your doctor or get emergency medical help if you have unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain, dizziness, feeling cold, or feeling very weak or tired.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use Glucophage XR if you are allergic to it, or if you have:

- severe kidney disease; or
- metabolic acidosis or diabetic ketoacidosis (call your doctor for treatment).

If you need to have surgery or any type of x-ray or CT scan using a dye that is injected into your veins, you may need to temporarily stop taking Glucophage XR. Be sure your caregivers know ahead of time that you are using this medication.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- kidney disease (your kidney function may need to be checked before you take this medicine);
- high ketone levels in your blood or urine;
- [heart disease](#), congestive [heart failure](#);
- [liver disease](#); or
- if you also use insulin, or other oral diabetes medications.

You may develop **lactic acidosis**, a dangerous build-up of lactic acid in your blood. This may be more likely if you have other medical conditions, a severe [infection](#), chronic [alcoholism](#), or if you are 65 or older. Ask your doctor about your risk.

Follow your doctor's instructions about using this medicine **if you are pregnant or you become pregnant**. Controlling diabetes is very important during pregnancy, and having [high blood sugar](#) may cause complications in both the mother and the baby.

Glucophage XR may stimulate ovulation in a premenopausal woman and may increase the risk of unintended pregnancy. Talk to your doctor about your risk.

You should not breastfeed while using this medicine.

Glucophage XR should not be given to a child younger than 10 years old. **Some forms of metformin are not approved for use by anyone younger than 18 years old.**

How should I take Glucophage XR?

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Take Glucophage XR with a meal, unless your doctor tells you otherwise. Some forms of [metformin](#) are taken only once daily with the evening meal. Follow your doctor's instructions.

Do not crush, chew, or break an **extended-release tablet**. Swallow it whole.

Measure **liquid medicine** carefully. Use the dosing syringe provided, or use a medicine dose-measuring device (not a kitchen spoon).

Shake the **oral suspension** (liquid) before you measure a dose. Use the dosing syringe provided, or use a medicine dose-measuring device (not a kitchen spoon).

Some tablets are made with a shell that is not absorbed or melted in the body. Part of this shell may appear in your stool. This is normal and will not make the medicine less effective.

You may have low blood sugar (**hypoglycemia**) and feel very hungry, dizzy, irritable, confused, anxious, or shaky. To quickly treat [hypoglycemia](#), eat or drink a fast-acting source of sugar (fruit juice, hard candy, crackers, raisins, or non-diet soda).

Your doctor may prescribe a glucagon injection kit in case you have severe hypoglycemia. Be sure your family or close friends know how to give you this injection in an emergency.

Blood sugar levels can be affected by stress, illness, surgery, exercise, alcohol use, or skipping meals. **Ask your doctor before changing your dose or medication schedule.**

Glucophage XR is only part of a complete treatment program that may also include diet, exercise, weight control, blood sugar testing, and special medical care. Follow your doctor's instructions very closely.

Store at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light.

Your doctor may have you take extra [vitamin B12](#) while you are taking Glucophage XR. Take only the amount of vitamin B12 that your doctor has prescribed.

 [Detailed Glucophage XR dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. **Do not** take two doses at one time.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222. **An overdose can cause severe hypoglycemia or lactic acidosis.**

What should I avoid while taking Glucophage XR?

Avoid drinking alcohol. It lowers blood sugar and may increase your risk of lactic acidosis.

What other drugs will affect Glucophage XR?

Many drugs can affect Glucophage XR, making Glucophage XR less effective or increasing your risk of lactic acidosis. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and [herbal products](#). **Not all possible interactions are listed here.** Tell your doctor about all your current medicines and any medicine you start or stop using.

 [Glucophage XR drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does Glucophage XR interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

Glucophage XR

+

Enter a drug name

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Patient resources

Other brands

[Glucophage](#), [Glumetza](#), [Fortamet](#), [Riomet](#), [Riomet ER](#)

Professional resources

- [Glucophage XR prescribing information](#)
- [MetFORMIN \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Other brands

[Glucophage](#), [Glumetza](#), [Fortamet](#), [Riomet](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Type 2 Diabetes](#)

Further information


Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.


Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)


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DRUG STATUS

Availability
 Discontinued

Pregnancy & Lactation
 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*
N/A Not a controlled drug

Approval History
 Drug history at FDA



User Reviews & Ratings

7.8 / 10

[9 Reviews](#)

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Glucophage XR 500 mg (BMS 6063 500)



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