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# Dulaglutide

**Pronunciation:** *DOO-lá-GLOO-tide*

**Generic name:** dulaglutide

**Brand name:** [Trulicity](#)

**Dosage form:** single-use pen injection for subcutaneous use (0.75 mg/0.5 mL, 1.5 mg/0.5 mL, 3 mg/0.5 mL, 4.5 mg/0.5 mL)

**Drug class:** [GLP-1 Agonists \(Incretin Mimetics\)](#)

Medically reviewed by [Carmen Pope, BPharm](#). Last updated on Dec 26, 2024.

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## What is dulaglutide?

Dulaglutide (brand name [Trulicity](#)) is an injectable diabetes medicine that is used together with diet and exercise to improve blood sugar control in adults and children 10 years of age and older with type 2 [diabetes mellitus](#).

Dulaglutide is also used to help reduce the risk of serious heart problems such as heart attack or stroke in adults who have established cardiovascular disease or multiple cardiovascular risk factors.

Dulaglutide is not approved as a [weight loss drug](#), but some people may lose weight while using it. Dulaglutide belongs to the drug class called [glucagon-like peptide-1 \(GLP-1\) receptor agonists](#), which includes other medications such as [Ozempic](#), [Wegovy](#), [Rybelsus](#), [Victoza](#), [Saxenda](#), and [Byetta](#).

- For more information, see [Trulicity vs Ozempic](#) or [Trulicity vs Mounjaro](#).

Dulaglutide's [mechanism of action](#) involves mimicking a natural hormone called GLP-1, that your body makes after eating. GLP-1 helps control blood sugar in type 2 diabetes by increasing insulin when needed, reducing glucose production in the liver, slowing digestion, and decreasing appetite. Unlike your body's natural GLP-1 which works for minutes, dulaglutide lasts a week, which means dulaglutide injections only need to be given 1 time a week.

Dulaglutide gained FDA approval on September 18, 2014, under the brand name Trulicity. There is no dulaglutide generic, it is only available under the brand name Trulicity.

## Dulaglutide side effects

The most common side effects of dulaglutide are:

- nausea
- diarrhea
- vomiting

- stomach (abdominal) pain
- decreased appetite.

## Serious side effects and warnings

Dulaglutide carries a **Boxed Warning** for thyroid C-cell tumors in rats, but it is unknown whether dulaglutide would cause this type of cancer in humans.

**Possible thyroid tumors, including cancer.** In studies with rats or mice, dulaglutide and medicines that work like dulaglutide caused thyroid tumors, including thyroid cancer. It is not known if dulaglutide will cause thyroid tumors, or a type of thyroid cancer called medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC) in people.

- Do not use dulaglutide 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).
- Call your doctor at once if you have **signs of a thyroid tumor**, such as swelling or a lump in your neck, trouble swallowing, a hoarse voice, or shortness of breath. These may be symptoms of thyroid cancer.

**Inflammation of your pancreas** (pancreatitis). Stop using dulaglutide and call your healthcare provider right away if you have severe pain in your stomach area (abdomen) that will not go away, with or without vomiting. You may feel the pain from your abdomen to your back.

**Low blood sugar** (hypoglycemia). Your risk of getting low blood sugar may be higher if you use dulaglutide with another medicine that can cause low blood sugar, such as a sulfonylurea or insulin. Signs and symptoms of low blood sugar may include:

- dizziness or light-headedness
- sweating
- confusion or drowsiness
- headache
- blurred vision
- slurred speech
- shakiness
- fast heartbeat
- anxiety, irritability, or mood changes
- hunger
- weakness
- feeling jittery.

**Serious allergic reactions.** Stop using dulaglutide and get medical help right away if you have any symptoms of a serious allergic reaction including:

- swelling of your face, lips, tongue or throat
- problems breathing or swallowing

- severe rash or itching
- fainting or feeling dizzy
- very rapid heartbeat.

**Kidney problems** (kidney failure). In people who have kidney problems, diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting may cause a loss of fluids (dehydration) which may cause kidney problems to get worse.

**Severe stomach problems.** Stomach problems, sometimes severe, have been reported in people who use Trulicity. Tell your healthcare provider if you have stomach problems that are severe or will not go away.

**Vision changes.** Tell your healthcare provider if you have changes in vision during treatment with dulaglutide.

**Gallbladder problems.** Gallbladder problems have happened in some people who take dulaglutide. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get symptoms of gallbladder problems, which may include:

- pain in your upper stomach (abdomen)
- fever
- yellowing of skin or eyes (jaundice)
- clay-colored stools.

**Food or liquid getting into the lungs** during surgery or other procedures that use anesthesia or deep sleepiness (deep sedation). Dulaglutide may increase the chance of food getting into your lungs during surgery or other procedures. Tell all your healthcare providers that you are taking dulaglutide before you are scheduled to have surgery or other procedures.

Do not use this medicine if you are in a state of [diabetic ketoacidosis](#) (call your doctor for treatment).

Dulaglutide is not for treating [type 1 diabetes](#).

Dulaglutide has not been studied in patients with a history of pancreatitis. Other treatments for type 2 diabetes should be considered.

These are not all the possible side effects of dulaglutide. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Dulaglutide side effects](#) (more detail)

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Wegovy is a once-weekly semaglutide injection used for chronic weight management and to reduce ...

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7.6 / 10

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Jardiance (empagliflozin) is used to treat type 2 diabetes, chronic kidney disease and reduce the ...

### Reviews & ratings

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## Metformin

Metformin is an oral diabetes medicine

used together with diet and exercise to improve blood sugar ...

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6.8 / 10

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## Before taking

You should not use dulaglutide if you are allergic to dulaglutide, dulaglutide, or any of the inactive ingredients in the dulaglutide pen. In addition, do not use if you have:

- multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2 (tumors in your glands)
- a personal or family history of medullary thyroid carcinoma (a type of thyroid cancer).
- diabetic ketoacidosis (call your doctor for treatment).

Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions before starting dulaglutide, including if you:

- have or have had problems with your pancreas, kidneys or liver
- have severe problems with your stomach, such as slowed emptying of your stomach (gastroparesis), problems with digesting food, or severe stomach problems
- have a history of diabetic retinopathy
- have type 1 diabetes
- are scheduled to have surgery or other procedures that use anesthesia or deep sleepiness (deep sedation)
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed.

Dulaglutide is not approved for use by anyone younger than 10 years old with type 2 diabetes. For cardiovascular risk reduction, it is only approved for adults 18 years and older.

## Pregnancy

It is not known if dulaglutide will harm an unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while using dulaglutide.

## Breastfeeding

It is not known if dulaglutide passes into your breast milk. You and your healthcare provider should decide if you should breastfeed while taking dulaglutide.

 [Dulaglutide pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

## How should I use dulaglutide?

Read the **Instructions for Use** that come with the [Trulicity Package Insert](#). Use dulaglutide exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to.

Use dulaglutide **1 time each week** on the same day each week, at any time of the day.

- You may change the day of the week as long as your last dose was given 3 or more days before.
- Dulaglutide may be taken with or without food.

Dulaglutide is injected **under the skin** (subcutaneously) of your stomach (abdomen), thigh, or upper arm.

- Your healthcare provider will teach you how to inject dulaglutide yourself, or you can have a caregiver give it to you.

Do not mix insulin and dulaglutide together in the same injection.

- You may give an injection of [dulaglutide and insulin](#) in the same body area (such as your stomach area), but not right next to each other.
- Change (rotate) your injection site with each weekly injection. Do not use the same site for each injection.

 [Dulaglutide patient tips](#) (more detail)

## What happens if I miss a dose of dulaglutide?

If you miss a dose of dulaglutide, take the missed dose as soon as possible if there are at least 3 days (72 hours) until your next scheduled dose.

If there are less than 3 days remaining, skip the missed dose and take your next dose on the regularly scheduled day. Do not take 2 doses of dulaglutide within 3 days of each other.

## What happens if I take too much dulaglutide?

If you take too much dulaglutide, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest emergency room right away.

## What happens if I develop low blood sugar on dulaglutide?

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 other medications (such as insulin or sulfonylureas for diabetes), [stress](#), illness, surgery, exercise, alcohol use, or skipping meals. **Ask your doctor before changing your dose or medication schedule.**

Also, watch for signs of high blood sugar (**hyperglycemia**) such as increased thirst or urination.

## Dulaglutide dosing information

## Usual Adult Dulaglutide Dose for Diabetes Type 2

Initial dose: dulaglutide 0.75 mg subcutaneously once a week.

- The dose may be increased to 1.5 from 0.75, then in 1.5 mg increments for additional glycemic control; patients should remain on 3 mg 1 time a week dose for at least 4 weeks before increasing the dose to 4.5 mg once a week.

Maintenance dose: 0.75 to 4.5 mg subcutaneously once a week.

Maximum dose: 4.5 mg weekly.

## Usual Child 10 years and Older Dulaglutide Dose for Diabetes Type 2

Initial dose: dulaglutide 0.75 mg subcutaneously once a week.

- The dose may be increased to 1.5 mg once weekly after at least 4 weeks on the 0.75 mg dosage.

Maintenance dose: 0.75 to 1.5 mg subcutaneously once a week.

Maximum dose: 1.5 mg weekly.

## Usual Adult Dulaglutide Dose for Cardiovascular Risk Reduction:

Initial dose: dulaglutide 0.75 mg subcutaneously once a week

- The dose may be increased to 1.5 from 0.75, then in 1.5 mg increments for additional glycemic control; patients should remain on 3 mg 1 time a week dose for at least 4 weeks before increasing the dose to 4.5 mg once a week.

Maintenance dose: 0.75 to 4.5 mg subcutaneously once a week.

Maximum dose: 4.5 mg weekly.

 [Detailed Dulaglutide dosage information](#)

## What should I avoid while using dulaglutide?

**Never share an injection pen or prefilled syringe with another person, even if the needle has been changed.**

Sharing these devices can allow infections or disease to pass from one person to another.

## What other drugs will affect dulaglutide?

Other drugs may interact with dulaglutide, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Know the medicines you take. Keep a list to show your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

Dulaglutide can slow your digestion, and it may take longer for your body to absorb any medicines you take by mouth.

Other medications for diabetes, such as insulin and sulfonylureas, may increase the risk for low blood sugar levels with dulaglutide.

This is not a full list of drug interactions. See the [Trulicity Prescribing Information](#) for a full list.

 [Dulaglutide drug interactions](#) (more detail)



## Does dulaglutide interact with my other drugs?

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

dulaglutide

+

Enter a drug name

Add

## How do I store dulaglutide?

Store dulaglutide Pens in the refrigerator, protected from light. Do not use past the [expiration date](#) on the medicine label. **Do not freeze this medicine**, and throw away the medicine if it has become frozen.

You may also store dulaglutide Pens at room temperature for up to 14 days before use.

Each injection pen or prefilled syringe is for one use only. Throw away after one use, even if there is still medicine left inside. Use a puncture-proof "sharps" container. Follow state or local laws about how to dispose of this container. Keep it out of the reach of children and pets.

## Dulaglutide ingredients

Active ingredient: dulaglutide.

Inactive ingredients: citric acid anhydrous, mannitol, polysorbate 80, trisodium citrate dihydrate, in water for injection.

Dulaglutide is available as:

- 0.75 mg/0.5 mL solution in a single-dose pen
- 1.5 mg/0.5 mL solution in a single-dose pen
- 3 mg/0.5 mL solution in a single-dose pen
- 4.5 mg/0.5 mL solution in a single-dose pen.

## Who makes dulaglutide?

Eli Lilly and Company makes dulaglutide under the brand name Trulicity.

## Dulaglutide Biosimilars

Biosimilar and interchangeable products are biological products that are highly similar to and have no clinically meaningful differences from the reference product.

## Reference products

These are biological products that have already been approved by the FDA, against which biosimilar products are

compared. There is 1 for dulaglutide.

## Trulicity (dulaglutide) - Eli Lilly and Company



Formulation type	Strength
Autoinjector	0.75 mg/0.5 mL
Autoinjector	1.5 mg/0.5 mL
Autoinjector	3 mg/0.5 mL
Autoinjector	4.5 mg/0.5 mL
Pre-Filled Syringe	0.75 mg/0.5 mL <b>Discontinued</b>
Pre-Filled Syringe	1.5 mg/0.5 mL <b>Discontinued</b>

View [Trulicity](#) information in detail.

## Popular FAQ

Trulicity vs Ozempic: Which is right for you?



Does Trulicity cause weight loss?



Does Trulicity need to be refrigerated?



Trulicity and diet: What foods should you avoid?



How do you use/inject Trulicity?



Can Trulicity be injected cold?



Can Trulicity be used with insulin?



Is Trulicity a form of insulin?



How does Trulicity work?



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### References

1. [Trulicity \(dulaglutide\) Prescribing Information](#)

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## Patient resources

### Other brands

[Trulicity](#)

## Professional resources

- [Dulaglutide monograph](#)

### Other brands

[Trulicity](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [Weight Loss \(Obesity/Overweight\)](#)
- [Cardiovascular Risk Reduction](#)
- [Type 2 Diabetes](#)

## Further information

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

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

## Guide to Weight Loss Drugs

Find out everything you need to know about weight loss drugs in our prescription [weight loss drug guide](#).

## DRUG STATUS

### Availability

**Rx** Prescription only


### Pregnancy & Lactation

 Risk data available

### CSA Schedule\*

**N/A** Not a controlled drug

### Approval History

 Drug history at FDA



## User Reviews & Ratings

5.3 / 10

[993 Reviews](#)

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[GLP-1 Drugs Improve Outlook For Kidney Transplants](#)

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[Trulicity \(dulaglutide\) 0.75 mg/0.5 mL solution in a single-dose pen](#)



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