

## SGLT2 medications in type 2 diabetes

### Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio tape or computer disk, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please telephone the PALS desk on 01271 314090.

### Why have I been given this leaflet?

You are taking, or about to take, one of the following drugs:

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

There is new information about these drugs which you and your doctor or nurse should know about.

### What's the problem?

People taking this drug can develop an unusual complication of diabetes. This can lead to too much acid in your blood. This is called diabetic ketoacidosis and can happen **even when your blood glucose concentration is normal**. If not identified early, this can be very dangerous. However, this is a **VERY RARE** complication.

### What should I look out for?

If you are taking one of these tablets, please look out for these symptoms:

- nausea
- vomiting
- fast breathing
- abdominal pains
- fever

If you have any of these symptoms, please see a medical professional, such as a doctor or nurse, even if your blood sugars are near normal. If your GP practice is closed, please phone 111.

State that you are worried about “Diabetic keto-acidosis”

## Is there anything more likely to cause this?

This problem can develop at any time.

You need to be especially careful if you develop an infection (like a chest or urine infection) or undergo surgery.

If you have an operation, please discuss this medication with your doctor or nurse – you may need to stop your tablets.

However, do not stop these drugs without discussing it with your doctor or nurse first.

## If I feel unwell, what will my doctor or nurse do?

You will have a test to check the amount of sugar and ketones (a breakdown product of fat) in your bloodstream. This could be a urine or fingerprick blood test. If the levels of ketones are high, your doctor or nurse will contact the diabetes specialist team.

## Further information

For more information, please read the information sheet that comes with your drug or medicine.

You can contact the diabetes specialist nurses at North Devon District Hospital on 01271 32272.

## References

Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency Drug safety update (18 April 2016)  
“SGLT2 inhibitors: updated advice on the risk of diabetic ketoacidosis”

### **PALS**

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or e-mail [ndht.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ndht.pals@nhs.net). You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

## Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

‘Care Opinion’ comments forms are on all wards or online at [www.careopinion.org.uk](http://www.careopinion.org.uk).

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