

Summary of medication characteristics for the treatment of T2DM (Based on ADA, ABCD)

Drug/therapeutic class	Efficacy	Risk of hypoglycaemia	Weight change	CV effects		Renal effects		Formulation	Other	Use in frailty
				ASCVD	HF	Progression of DKD	Dosing/use in CKD			
Metformin	High (11 mmol/mol)	No	Neutral/modest loss	Potential benefit	Neutral	Neutral	Reduce/stop	Oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GI side effects common Risk of B12 deficiency Consider 'sick day guidance' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use with caution if previous episode of acute kidney injury
SGLT-2i	High (9-11 mmol/mol)	No	Loss	Benefit	Benefit	Benefit	Adjust dose. Have less glucose-lowering efficacy with eGFR <45 ml/min/1.73m ²	Oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of risk of DKA/eDKA* - stop prior to surgery - risk with low carbohydrate diet Increased risk for volume depletion, hypotension Increased frequency of genitourinary infections (very rarely Fournier's gangrene) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased risk for volume depletion Consider 'sick day guidance'
GLP-1RA	High (9-11 mmol/mol)	No	Loss	Benefit/neutral	Neutral	Benefit	Adjust dose for some	Injection/SC Oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GI side effects common Injection site reactions Pancreatitis reported – discontinue if suspected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once weekly formulations available if carer support required to deliver injectable therapy
DPP-4i/Gliptins	Moderate (6-9 mmol/mol)	No	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Adjust dose for some	Oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pancreatitis reported – discontinue if suspected Do not prescribe with GLP-1RA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caution in congestive heart failure NYHA class III and IV
Pioglitazone	High (11 mmol/mol)	No	Gain	Potential benefit	Increased risk	Neutral	None required	Oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluid retention (therefore less suitable in renal impairment) and congestive heart failure Risk of bone fractures and bladder cancer 	
Sulfonylureas	High (11 mmol/mol)	Yes	Gain	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Adjust dose for some	Oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid in frailty Consider 'sick day guidance' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid in those with inconsistent eating patterns, e.g., advanced dementia, cancer

^ see individual SPC for variation within class