

# Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in Adults

## A guide for Southwark General Practice

### Key Messages

1. Lifestyle: if overweight, agree a weight loss goal of 5–10% of body weight<sup>1</sup>
2. Blood pressure: target BP  $\leq 140/80$  (130/80 in established cerebrovascular, eye and kidney disease)<sup>1</sup>
3. Cholesterol: Statin if QRISK2  $\geq 10\%$ <sup>2</sup>
4. HbA1c: target  $\leq 58\text{mmol/mol}$  ( $\leq 7.5\%$ )<sup>1,3</sup>

Always work within your knowledge and competency



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## Why focus on Type 2 Diabetes (T2DM) in Southwark?

- Even modest improvements in glucose control reduce incidence of complications including foot ulcers, amputations and neuropathy.<sup>4</sup>
- Tight blood pressure control substantially reduces diabetes complications and improves survival.<sup>5</sup>
- Cholesterol lowering drugs reduce the risk of major vascular events.<sup>6</sup>
- Weight management may normalise blood sugar levels without the use of drugs.<sup>7</sup>
- Smoking is a risk factor for T2DM and supporting patients to stop smoking reduces their risk of premature death, heart disease and other complications.<sup>8</sup>
- Primary care management of, and screening for, diabetes are key areas where improved quality of care could contribute to NHS cost savings.<sup>9</sup>
- Diabetes was chosen as a priority area by Southwark practices (Protected Learning Time event – October 2017).

## Increasing T2DM prevalence and control will deliver better outcomes for patients and improve practice income

### Risk factors for T2DM<sup>10</sup>

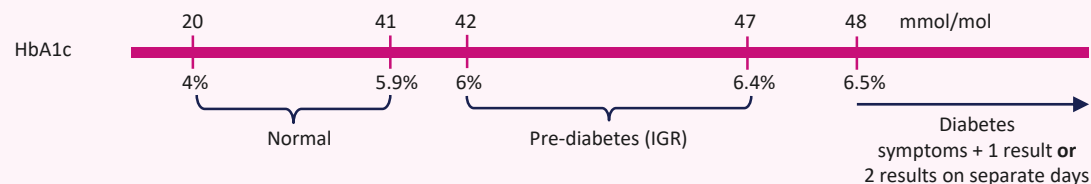
- Age over 40 and white
- Age over 25 and black or south Asian
- Family history
- High blood pressure
- BMI > 25 especially apple shape
- History of coronary heart disease or stroke
- Serious mental illness
- Polycystic ovarian syndrome and gestational diabetes

Calculate T2DM risk using a [QDiabetes calculator](#)

### Management of Pre-Diabetes

- Use CES Pre-Diabetes template to ensure accurate coding
- Refer to structured education:
  - 42-43mmol/mol refer to Walking Away from Diabetes
  - 44-47mmol/mol refer to Diabetes Prevention Programme (DPP)
- Annual review for patients with pre-diabetes and history of gestational diabetes
  - HbA1c
  - BP
  - BMI
  - Brief advice

### Diagnosis of T2DM using HbA1c<sup>1,11</sup>



Normal haemoglobin is a requirement to interpret HbA1c results. The diagnosis and monitoring of T2DM using HbA1c is dependent on normal erythropoiesis, no genetic or chemically altered haemoglobins, normal glycation and normal erythrocyte destruction rates. HbA1c is not suitable for diagnosis in rapid onset diabetes including Type 1 and pregnancy.<sup>11</sup>

### New Diagnosis: ENSURE THE DIAGNOSIS IS BELIEVED AND UNDERSTOOD

- Use CES T2DM template to ensure accurate coding
- Refer to Structured Education Programme – Diabetes Book and Learn Southwark
- Agree a clear review date

### Use [Diabetes UK Information Prescriptions](#) to support personal care

### Considering pregnancy

- Refer Community Diabetes Single Point Referral, Diabetes Pre-pregnancy Clinic KCH or GSTT

### New T2DM, >60 years, weight loss

- 2WW referral for suspected cancer of pancreas<sup>12</sup>

## T2DM Eight Care Processes<sup>13</sup>

- Individualise all targets, review dates and monitoring

- Ensure all care processes undertaken at least annually

### 1 Body Mass Index kg/m<sup>2</sup> <sup>1, 14</sup>

- Overweight
  - BMI ≥ 25 White groups
  - BMI ≥ 23 Black African, African Caribbean and Asian groups
- Agree an initial weight loss target of 5–10% of body weight

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### 2 Blood Pressure<sup>1, 15</sup>

- Target ≤140/80mmHg
- ≤ 130/80mmHg for established cerebrovascular, eye and kidney disease
- ≤ 150/90mmHg if ≥ 80 years

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### 3 Cholesterol<sup>2</sup>

- Primary prevention:
  - Statin if QRISK2 ≥ 10% after 3 months lifestyle advice

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### 4 HbA1c<sup>1,3</sup>

Check 3-6 monthly until stable, then 6 monthly

#### Target:

- ≤48mmol/mol (6.5%) unless on a drug that could cause adverse events
- ≤58mmol/mol (7.5%) if on a drug that could cause adverse events e.g. gliclazide and insulin

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### 5 & 6 Renal function and albumin creatinine ratio (ACR) <sup>11</sup>

#### ACR

- Ideally early morning urine.
- If random sample then confirm with early morning sample
  - Women ACR** ≥ 2.5 mg/mmol = nephropathy
  - Men ACR** ≥ 3.5 mg/mmol = nephropathy

Nephropathy – start an ACEI/ARB even if normotensive

Consider CKD in patients with raised ACR and low eGFR<sup>16</sup>

### 7 Smoking

- Ensure you are trained to deliver Very Brief Advice (VBA)
- ASK ADVISE ACT** [Very Brief Advice Training Module](#)
- If ready to quit refer to appropriate local service.

### 8 Foot Check

**Medium risk** – neuropathy or absent pulse ➤ Refer Podiatry Community Clinic

**High risk** – neuropathy or absent pulse +plus deformity or skin changes in previous ulcer ➤ Urgently Refer Podiatry Community Clinic

**Active ulcer/infection/ischaemia** > KCH/GSTT diabetic foot clinic or A&E out of hours

Referral details on [Diabetic Foot Pathway for Southwark and Lambeth](#)<sup>DXS</sup>

### And remember

- Flu annually and pneumococcal immunisation once<sup>10</sup>

- Retinopathy screening within 3 months of diagnosis and at least annually<sup>1</sup>. Patients called automatically once coded for T2DM

Identify and address all modifiable risk factors

Individualise targets and goals  
e.g. frail, elderly, end of life care

Check understanding and adherence and set a review date

Weight Management in T2DM<sup>1,19,20,21</sup>

Exercise

All	At least 30 minutes of moderate or greater physical activity on 5 or more days a week
To prevent obesity	45-60 minutes moderate intensity exercise a day
With a history of obesity	60-90 minutes to avoid regaining weight

Southwark activities

Southwark Sport and Leisure

Southwark Wellbeing Hub Directory for community resources

Exercise on Referral

Health Improvement Hub – access via NHS Health Checks

Weight Management in T2DM

BMI kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Offer All: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tier 1 – Universal services</li> <li>Diet and exercise advice</li> </ul>
≥ 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer orlistat as part of an overall weight management plan</li> </ul>
30-34.9 (Asian 27.5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weight Management Tier 2 – Lifestyle intervention</li> <li>Consider assessment for bariatric surgery</li> </ul>
35-39.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weight Management Tier 2 – Lifestyle intervention</li> <li>Tier 4 – Offer assessment for bariatric surgery</li> </ul>
>40 (Asian > 37.5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weight Management Tier 3 – Specialist weight management</li> <li>Tier 4 – Offer assessment for bariatric surgery</li> </ul>

- Southwark Weight Management Programme
- Primary Care Navigators can signpost patients to local resources
- Adult Community Dietetics for 1:1 input

Blood pressure management in T2DM<sup>1,15,22</sup>

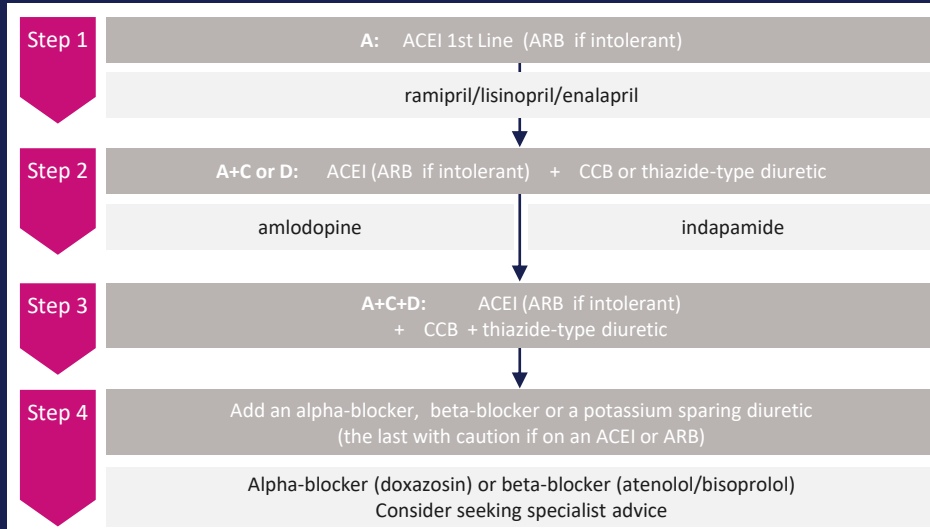
Treat Stage 1 Hypertension in T2DM

BP ≥ 140/90mmHg + ABPM/Home monitoring average ≥ 135/85mm/Hg

Patients of Afro-Caribbean origin should start at Step 2

Pregnant or chance of becoming pregnant? – avoid ACEI and use CCB first line<sup>15</sup>

Monitor every 1-2 months until target is reached and then every 4-6 months



KEY: A = ACEI/ARB B = β-Blocker C = CCB D = diuretic (thiazide type)

HBPM: Home BP monitoring

- Ensure patient is using an accurate BP machine and advise to record two BP readings every morning and evening every day for 7 days
- In the practice, disregard the first days readings and take an average of all other readings

Identify and address all modifiable risk factors

Individualise targets and goals  
e.g. frail, elderly, end of life care

Check understanding and adherence and set a review date

**Cholesterol Management in T2DM<sup>2,23</sup>**

**Primary Prevention**

If QRISK2 ≥ 10% after 3/12 lifestyle advice  
Atorvastatin 20mg

**Secondary Prevention**

Atorvastatin 80mg

**Or maximum tolerated dose if not able to tolerate advised dosage**

- Baseline lipid profile, TFT, LFT (ALT or AST). Do not start if hypothyroid or AST/ALT > 3 x upper limit of normal
- LFT (ALT or AST) at 3 and 12 months – not again unless indicated
- History of unexplained muscle pain with or without statins: check CK, do not use statin if CK persistently > 5x upper limit of normal
- Check lipid profile annually to check efficacy and adherence

Also refer to South London Guidance on [Lipid Management](#) and [Prescribing Statins](#)

- QOF and PMS target = cholesterol ≤ 5 mmol/mol
- Lower than 100% target is recognition that not all those with T2DM meet criteria for statin treatment

**Need Help?**

Community Hypertension and Lipid Clinic: DXS referral or email for advice  
[gst-tr.KHPCCommunityCVD@nhs.net](mailto:gst-tr.KHPCCommunityCVD@nhs.net)

**HbA1c management in T2DM<sup>13</sup>**



**Need Help?**

Community Diabetes Clinic Single Point Referral or arrange a Virtual Clinic  
[GST-TR.southwark-diabetes@nhs.net](mailto:GST-TR.southwark-diabetes@nhs.net)

## T2DM: Preferred Medication<sup>1,2,3,15,21,22,23</sup>

	Drug	Starting dose	Daily Range	Notes (these are not extensive, please refer to the latest BNF for further information especially titration increments/cautions/contra-indications)
<b>Biguanide</b>	Metformin	500mg OD	<b>Metformin standard release</b> Start 500mg daily with/after food and increase by 500mg every 2 weeks until on 1g BD or maximum tolerated dose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure corrected eGFR &gt;45ml/min, or review dose. Contraindicated if corrected eGFR &lt;30ml/min, check renal function at least annually</li> <li>Consider slow release preparation up to TDS if standard preparation not tolerated</li> <li>Take with meals to reduce gastrointestinal side effects</li> <li>Has a 'legacy' effect of reduced complications from T2DM</li> <li>Remember sick day rules ▀ p.10</li> <li>Manufacturer advises patients and carers should be informed to seek urgent medical advice if symptoms of lactic acidosis e.g. dyspnoea, cramps, abdominal pain</li> </ul>
	Corrected eGFR refers to an eGFR that is corrected for ethnicity. For black people of African or Caribbean family origin only, multiple their eGFR by 1.21 <sup>11</sup>			
<b>Sulfonylureas</b>	Gliclazide	40mg – 80mg daily	160mg-320 mg daily, doses over 160mg divided. Titrate every 2 weeks according to pre-meal blood glucose – target 4-6mmol/l or against 3 monthly HbA1c.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inform patients of risk of adverse events/hypoglycaemia, particularly if renal impairment</li> <li>Use with care in those with mild to moderate renal impairment (eGFR 30-60ml/min), only prescribe under specialist advice in severe impairment (eGFR &lt;30ml/min)</li> <li>Self monitor according to DVLA guidance and consider alternative if Group 2 driver (large lorries and buses)<sup>24</sup></li> <li>Consider alternative if BMI &gt;35</li> <li>Care with frail elderly, housebound and certain occupations e.g. working heavy machinery</li> </ul>
<b>Lipase inhibitor</b>	Orlistat	120mg up to three times a day	In T2DM consider Orlistat where BMI ≥ 28kg/m <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take before, during or up to one hour after each meal</li> <li>Aim for a target weight loss of at least 5% of body weight after 12 weeks. Note; weight loss may be slower in T2DM and so less strict targets may be considered on a case by case basis.</li> <li>Omit the dose if a meal is missed or does not contain fat</li> <li>May impair absorption of fat soluble vitamins e.g. Vitamin D, and drugs if taken concurrently</li> <li>SPC: discontinue after 12 weeks if patients have been unable to lose at least 5 % of the body weight as measured at the start of therapy.</li> </ul>
<b>ACEI</b>	1st line Ramipril	2.5mg OD (1.25mg OD in frail/elderly patients)		1.25-10mg OD
	2nd line Lisinopril	10mg OD	10-80mg OD (maintenance dose 20mg for hypertension)	
<b>ARBs</b>	Losartan	50mg OD (25mg OD if >75yrs old)	50-100mg OD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Side effects: symptomatic hypotension can occur on first dosing – suggest take at night.</li> <li>Dry cough with ACEI, consider switch to ARB</li> <li>Caution: Do not combine ACEI and ARB to treat hypertension</li> </ul>
	Candesartan	8mg OD	8mg-32mg OD	



## T2DM: Preferred Medication<sup>1,2,3,15,21,22,23</sup>

	Drug	Starting dose	Daily Range	Notes (these are not extensive, please refer to the latest BNF for further information especially titration increments/cautions/contra-indications)
<b>CCBs</b>	Amlodopine	5mg OD	5-10mg OD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase after 2-4 weeks to maximum dose of 10mg OD.</li> <li>Caution: Interacts with simvastatin –consider switching to atorvastatin.</li> <li>If amlodopine causes ankle oedema consider alternative CCB e.g. lacidipine (not nifedipine)</li> <li>CI: Unstable angina, aortic stenosis</li> </ul>
<b>Thiazide diuretics</b>	Indapamide (IR)	2.5mg OD	2.5mg OD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check baseline renal profile, then after 2/52, then at least annually. If K &lt; 3.5mmol/L or eGFR &lt;25ml/min stop indapamide and seek specialist advice.</li> </ul>
	Chlortalidone	12.5mg OD	12.5-50mg OD Step 4 = 50mg OD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check baseline renal profile, then after 2/52, then at least annually. If K &lt; 3.5mmol/L or eGFR &lt;25ml/min stop chlortalidone and seek specialist advice.</li> <li>Note: BNF states 25mg OD starting dose, whilst NICE suggests 12.5mg starting dose.</li> <li>An alternative to indapamide, but tablets need to be halved/quartered for appropriate dosing. Morning dosing.</li> <li>Step 4 – offer only if spironolactone not suitable. Step 4 dose is 50mg OD, but only if potassium &gt;4.5mmol/L.</li> </ul>
<b>Aldosterone receptor antagonist (K-sparing diuretic)</b>	Spironolactone	25mg OD	25-50mg Step 4 dose = 50mg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spironolactone is the preferred diuretic at Step 4. Consider only if potassium ≤ 4.5mmol/L (caution in reduced eGFR&lt;60ml/min as increased risk of hyperkalaemia)</li> <li>High dose at step 4 = 50mg OD but only potassium is ≤ 4.5mmol/L. Monitor Na/K/Renal function within one month and repeat as required thereafter.</li> </ul>
<b>α-B</b>	Doxazosin (IR)	1mg OD	2-16mg OD (or BD dosing when >8mg/day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider at Step 4. Initial dose of 1mg usually increased after 1-2 weeks to 2mg OD</li> <li>At doses above 8mg/day, consider split dosing from OD to BD to reduce BP variation</li> <li>Caution with initial dose as may cause postural hypotension</li> </ul>
<b>β-B</b>	Atenolol	25mg OD	25-50mg OD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Particular caution in T2DM – symptoms of hypoglycaemia may be masked. Consider at Step 4</li> <li>Beta blockers maybe considered in younger people and in those with an intolerance/CI to ACEI/ARBs, women of childbearing age, co-existent anxiety/tachycardia/heart failure.</li> <li>CI include asthma, 2nd/3rd degree AV block, severe PAD</li> <li>Caution – beta blockers can cause bradycardia if combined with certain CCBs e.g. Verapamil/Diltiazem</li> <li>Caution: increased risk of diabetes when beta-blocker is prescribed with a thiazide diuretic.</li> </ul>
	Bisoprolol	5-10mg OD	5-20mg OD	
<b>Statin</b>	Atorvastatin	20mg OD	20-80mg OD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek specialist advice if eGFR &lt;30ml/min, liver disease, untreated hypothyroidism, heavy drinker</li> <li>CI in pregnancy, breast feeding, avoid or address contraceptive needs women of childbearing age. Advise to stop 3 months before conception.</li> <li>Multiple drug interactions, check BNF for advice, limit or avoid grapefruit juice</li> <li>Advise patient to visit GP if they experience unexplained muscle pains</li> <li>Refer to SELAPC Guidelines on Lipid Management<sup>23</sup></li> </ul>

## Educational Resources

**Cambridge Diabetes Education Programme**, comprehensive, competence based learning.

Free for all Southwark clinicians [www.cdep.org.uk](http://www.cdep.org.uk)

REGISTRATION KEY CODE: SOUCCGCDEP

**RCGP Essential Knowledge Update: Type 2 Diabetes in Adults: Management**

Free to all clinicians, brief update of NICE guidance

## Quality Improvement Resource

[RCGP Quality Improvement Toolkit for Diabetes Care](#)

## Sick Day Rules

### **DAMN Drugs<sup>25</sup>**

Consider stopping Diuretics, ACEI/ARB, Metformin, NSAID during acute inter-current illness to reduce risk of kidney injury.

## Acknowledgements

CES would like to thank all our colleagues who participated and fed-back during the consultation process, and we would also like to thank King's Health Partners and the Health Innovation Network, who helped produce this guide.

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## Abbreviations

- 2WW – Two week wait referral
- $\alpha$ -B – Alpha blocker
- A&E – Accident and Emergency
- ABPM – Ambulatory blood pressure monitoring
- ACEI– Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor
- ACR – Albumin-creatinine ratio
- ALT – Alanine aminotransferase
- ARB – Angiotensin receptor blocker
- AST – Aspartate aminotransferase
- $\beta$ -B – Beta blocker
- BD – Twice daily (dosing)
- BMI – Body mass index
- BP – Blood Pressure
- CES – Clinical Effectiveness Southwark
- CCB – Calcium channel blocker
- CK – Creatinine Kinase
- CKD – Chronic Kidney Disease
- Cr – Creatinine
- CVD – Cardiovascular disease
- DASH – Dietary approaches to stop hypertension
- DESMOND – Diabetes Education and Self-Management for Ongoing and Diagnosed
- DPP – Diabetes Prevention Programme
- DVLA – Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency
- DXS – Point-of-care tool for EMIS Web
- ECG – Electrocardiogram
- eGFR – Estimated glomerular filtration rate
- ERS – Electronic Referral System
- FBC – Full blood count
- GSTT – Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospital
- IGR – Impaired Glucose Regulation
- IR – Immediate release
- K – Potassium
- KCH – King's College Hospital
- HbA1c – Haemoglobin A1c %
- HBPM– Home blood pressure monitoring
- IGR – Impaired glucose regulation
- IHD – Ischaemic Heart Disease
- LFT – Liver function tests
- NDA – National Diabetes Audit
- NSAID – Non steroidal anti-inflammatory
- OD – Once daily (dosing)
- PAD – Peripheral Arterial Disease
- PCOS – Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome
- PHM – Population health management (contract)
- PMS – Primary medical services (contract)
- QOF – Quality and outcomes framework (contract)
- QRISK2 – a prediction algorithm for CVD. EMIS currently using QRISK2 (although QRISK3 released in 2017)
- RCGP – Royal College of General Practitioners
- Renal profile – this includes serum sodium/potassium/creatinine/eGFR
- SELAPC – South East London Area Prescribing Committee
- SPC – **summary of product characteristics**
- T2DM – Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus
- TIA – Transient ischaemic attack
- TFT – Thyroid function blood tests

Making the right thing to do  
the easy thing to do.