

# Management of Diabetes Undergoing Elective Surgery

## Diabetes and Endocrinology

Patient information leaflet for  
patients on single basal  
(background) insulin

**These instructions are for patients with diabetes who take background insulin as part of their treatment. For example, Lantus, Tresiba, Toujeo, Abasaglar, Semglee, Humulin I, Levemir, Xultophy, Suliqua.**

If you take other insulins as well, the following would **not** be appropriate instruction. Please ask staff to give you the correct leaflet for your needs.

### **On the day before surgery**

If you are on a SGLT2 inhibitor (examples are dapagliflozin, empagliflozin or canagliflozin), stop these drugs. Resume only after your operation when you are eating and drinking normally.

Continue your usual diabetic medications and follow any bowel preparations as advised by your surgeon / staff at the pre-assessment clinic.

### **On the day of surgery**

Continue taking your background insulin, at the same dose.

The following medications should be stopped from time of fasting:

- Sulphonylurea – examples are gliclazide, glimepiride and tolbutamide.
- Rapaglinide.
- SGLT2 inhibitors – examples are dapagliflozin, canagliflozin and empagliflozin.

Under special circumstances, your metformin may need to be withheld for 48 hours. Staff from the pre-assessment team will inform you of this.

Your other diabetic medications can continue on the morning of your operation.

Remember to bring to hospital all of your diabetes medications, dextrose tablets and blood testing equipment.

When you arrive at hospital, your blood glucose will be tested by finger prick and then monitored regularly. You can ask for extra blood testing if you feel symptoms of a 'hypo' (low blood glucose).

The target for safe surgery is 6 – 10 mmol. You may need insulin treatment to bring down high glucose, or dextrose infusion for treatment of low blood glucose.

## After surgery

You will be discharged when you are eating and drinking normally and your blood glucose is at a safe level.

However, if you are unwell with:

- **Continuous** vomiting / diarrhoea, or high fever
- **Unable** to keep food down for four hours or more
- **High** blood glucose (>15.0 mmol by finger prick testing)
- **High** ketones (>0.6 mmol)

You should seek medical help. During office hours, contact your usual diabetes specialist nurse or doctor.

At other times, contact your local out-of-hours GP service.

If you have any questions, or if there is anything you do not understand about this leaflet, please contact:

The Diabetes and Endocrine Centre on 01384 244399

Russells Hall Hospital switchboard number: 01384 456111

**This leaflet can be downloaded or printed from:**

<http://dgft.nhs.uk/services-and-wards/diabetes-and-endocrinology/>

If you have any feedback on this patient information leaflet, please email [dgft.patient.information@nhs.net](mailto:dgft.patient.information@nhs.net)

**This leaflet can be made available in large print, audio version and in other languages, please call 0800 073 0510.**

للحصول على هذه النشرة بحجم أكبر، وعلى شكل إصدار صوتي و بلغات أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال بالرقم 08000730510.

此宣传单可提供大字版本、音频版本和其它语言版本，请拨打电话：0800 073 0510。

Ulotka dostępna jest również w dużym druku, wersji audio lub w innym języku. W tym celu zadzwoń pod numer 0800 073 0510.

ਇਹ ਪਰਚਾ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ، ਬੋਲ ਕੇ ਰੀਕਾਰਡ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਅਤੇ ਦੂਸਰੀਆਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ, 0800 073 0510 ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜੀ।

Aceasta broșura poate fi pusă la dispoziție tipărită cu caractere mari, versiune audio sau în alte limbi, pentru acest lucru vă rugăm sunați la 0800 073 0510.

یہ کتابچہ آپ کو بڑے حروف کی لکھائی، سمعی صورت اور دیگر زبانوں میں مہیا کیا جا سکتا ہے۔ براہ کرم فون نمبر 08000730510 پر رابطہ کریں۔