

The Carlat Psychiatry Report

METFORMIN Fact Sheet

Manufacturer: Various, available as a generic.

Indications:

- Type 2 diabetes
- Off-label use for weight loss

Mechanism: Unclear; increases insulin sensitivity, decreases glucose absorption from GI tract.

Dosing:

- Metformin IR (immediate release) supplied as 500 mg, 850 mg, and 1000 mg tablets.
 - Start with 500 mg QPM (with dinner), titrate gradually up to 850 mg BID with meals.
- Metformin SR (slow release) or XR (extended release) supplied in 500 mg and 750 mg strengths.
 - Start at 500 mg QPM and titrate up to maximum of 2000 mg QPM with dinner.

Side Effects:

- Common: Diarrhea, nausea, abdominal cramping.
- Most serious is lactic acidosis, which is rare.

Drug-drug interactions:

- No significant drug-drug interactions.
- Contraindicated for patients with kidney or liver disease.

Pharmacokinetics:

- Excreted unchanged in the urine, no liver metabolism. .

Laboratory monitoring: Annual monitoring of CBC and creatinine.