

DPP-4 Inhibitors

Fact Sheet

- Dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4) inhibitors are a novel class of medications that represent a new and different approach to treating people with type 2 diabetes. The mechanism of action of DPP-4 inhibitors is distinct from that of any other class of glucose-lowering agents.
- DPP-4 inhibitors are the first new class of oral type 2 diabetes medications approved in Canada since 2000.
- DPP-4 inhibitors work by enhancing the incretin system, a natural body system that lowers blood sugar. When blood sugar is elevated, incretins (GLP-1, Glucagon-Like Peptide-1, and GIP, Glucose-Dependent Insulinotropic Polypeptide) work in two ways to help the body regulate high blood sugar levels: they trigger the pancreas to increase insulin and, in turn, signal the liver to reduce glucose production.
- DPP-4 inhibitors enhance the body's own ability to control blood sugar levels by increasing the active levels of these incretin hormones in the body, helping to decrease blood sugar levels in patients with type 2 diabetes.