

# How to Fight Diabetes and Win

**Managing  
Your  
Diabetes  
Every Day**



# **MANAGING YOUR DIA- BETES EVERY DAY**

In order to be in control of your diabetes and reduce your risk of diabetes complications, you must understand how to manage the disease.

# Diabetes and Your Body

Understanding diabetes and how your body responds to changes in food, activity, stress, and medication will help you better control your blood sugar. To see if there are trends or patterns in your blood sugar levels when they are out of target range, you must keep a detailed record of your blood sugar levels. Self monitoring of blood sugar is necessary and central to the effective treatment of diabetes. At diagnosis, your blood sugar results help you and your diabetes care team design the right diabetes care plan (meals, exercise, and medications) for you.

As you continue to live with diabetes, it is self-monitoring that tells you how well your diabetes care plan is working. Reviewing your blood sugar record will help you identify trends or patterns in sugar levels that are out of your target range. You will be able to determine what causes high and low blood sugar in your body. Together, with your diabetes care team, you will adjust your diabetes care plan so that you can bring blood sugar levels back into target range and maintain better blood sugar control. Knowing how and when food and stress raise blood sugar as well as how and when exercise and medications (diabetes pills and/or insulin) work to lower blood sugar will put you in charge of your diabetes.

# Managing Your Diabetes

A study by the International Diabetes Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota, showed that if almost half of your blood sugar readings fall within your target range, you can achieve an A1C (A-one-see) level of less than 7.5%. A1C is a blood test that is done by a member of your diabetes care team. It reflects your overall blood sugar level for the past 2 to 3 months.

There are five steps to follow that will help you manage your diabetes, keep your blood sugar within your target range, and reduce your A1C.

1. Know your target blood sugar ranges throughout the day. This is the level at which you want to keep your blood sugar at least half of the time. Your doctor and diabetes care team will help you choose target ranges for your blood sugar levels as part of your diabetes care plan.
2. Check your blood sugar levels as recommended by your doctor. Record your blood sugar and any factors (medication, exercise, diet, stress, illness, etc.) that may have affected your blood sugar in your logbook, your blood sugar monitor's memory, or computer.

A blood sugar log, like the following, can help you keep an accurate and detailed record. You are going to find a printable one at the end of this work book.

Date	Breakfast			Lunch			Dinner			Bedtime			Night		Comments
	Time	Sugar	Insulin	Time	Sugar	Insulin	Time	Sugar	Insulin	Time	Sugar	Insulin	Time	Sugar	

3. Drop the highest and lowest readings for the time period you are looking at (most healthcare professionals look at the last two to four weeks of blood sugar readings before making a decision). Usually these readings can be explained by an error in medication, unusual activity, changes in meal plan, stress, or illness.
4. Look for patterns or trends at certain times of the day or certain days of the week in the remaining blood sugar readings. You may be experiencing low or high blood sugar regularly and reviewing your blood sugar record will help you identify what may be causing those problem patterns.
5. Together, with your doctor and diabetes care team, make adjustments in your diabetes care plan, if necessary. Change only one part of your plan at a time, so that you can see the individual effect on your blood sugar levels.

## What Affects Blood Sugar

Adjustments you can make to your diabetes care plan to keep your blood sugar within recommended target range include changes to your medications (diabetes pills and/or insulin), activity (type of exercise, intensity, and duration), and meal plan (kind of food, amount, and time eaten). To understand the effects of medication, exercise, food, and stress on your diabetes control, you should check your blood sugar at specific times. Your doctor and diabetes care team will help you identify the best times to

test your blood sugar. By checking your blood sugar regularly, you and your diabetes care team can identify patterns and trends in your blood sugar levels. Using this information, your doctor and diabetes care team can assist you in making adjustments to your diabetes care plan. The following chart suggests when to test your blood sugar to see the effects of changes in medication, exercise, food, stress, or illness.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Effect on Blood Sugar</b>	<b>When to Test*</b>
Diabetes Medication	(decreases)	Varies by type of medication
Exercise	(usually decreases)	Before and after exercise
Skipping/Delaying a Meal	(decreases)	If you feel clammy, cold, sweaty, shaky or confused
Eating/Drinking	(increases)	Before meals 2 hours after meals Bedtime
Stress/Illness	(increases)	During or after stress If you are thirsty, have increased urination, hunger, blurred vision, feel tired or feel sick

*\*You should test your blood sugar more often when there has been a change in your medication (increase, decrease, or switch), you are ill or under stress, or your normal daily routine has been changed (travel, etc.).*

## Common Problem Patterns

Accurate and detailed blood sugar records can help you and your diabetes care team identify patterns and trends in your blood sugar levels at certain times of the day or certain days of the week. Changes in blood sugar level can be caused by many factors, including medication, insulin, exercise, food, stress, and illness. Most often, insulin and food are the causes of problem patterns in blood sugar for people with diabetes. However because many factors can cause blood sugar to be too high or too low, it is important that you consult with your doctor and diabetes care team before making adjustments to your diabetes care plan.

# Making Adjustments

After you and your diabetes care team have reviewed your blood sugar records and identified patterns in your blood sugar levels, you can decide whether or not adjustments to your diabetes care plan are necessary. Trends and patterns in your blood sugar levels indicate when and what kinds of adjustments should be made to your daily routine to better manage your diabetes. Your doctor will recommend changes in treatment that will help you get your blood sugar back within your target range. Slowly implement one change at a time to make sure of its individual effect on your blood sugar.

With the help of your doctor, fill out the chart below to keep track of any changes that you need to make to your diabetes care plan.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Pattern / Trend</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Treatment Change</b>
Example: 1/15/2012	Mid-afternoon hypoglycemic most days	Mid-afternoon hypoglycemic less than 2x/week	Decrease insulin 2 units

Keeping accurate and detailed records of your blood sugar levels and each change that you make to your daily routine will help you identify important patterns and trends. Blood sugar test results serve as guideposts in making the necessary adjustments to medication, activity, and food intake in order to achieve better diabetes control. In addition, a detailed blood sugar record can help you identify when your blood sugar is not within target range and when you should contact your doctor for help. Your blood sugar record can help your doctor determine the causes of changes in your blood sugar levels. Understanding what causes your blood sugar to rise and fall will help you, your doctor, and your diabetes care team make the most effective adjustments to your diabetes care plan.

# Blood Sugar Log

Date	Breakfast			Lunch			Dinner			Bedtime			Night		Comments
	Time	Sugar	Insulin	Time	Sugar	Insulin	Time	Sugar	Insulin	Time	Sugar	Insulin	Time	Sugar	

# When to test your blood sugar

<b>Event</b>	<b>Effect on Blood Sugar</b>	<b>When to Test*</b>
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Stress/Illness	(increases)	During or after stress If you are thirsty, have increased urination, hunger, blurred vision, feel tired or feel sick



## To keep track of any changes

Date	Pattern / Trend	Goal	Treatment Change

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*“This is the best product I have seen for comprehensive diabetes nutrition support and it naturally helps maintain a healthy glucose balance. I strongly recommend it to my patients.”*

Dr. Sergio Menendez, M.D.  
Board Certified Internal Medicine

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**How to Fight Diabetes and Win Educational Program**

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Vitamin A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Vitamin C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Vitamin D	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	✓	
Vitamin E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Thiamine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	✓	
Riboflavin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Niacin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Vitamin B6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	✓	
Folic Acid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Vitamin B12	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	✓	
Biotin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Pantothenic Acid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Calcium	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Iodine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Magnesium	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Zinc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Selenium	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Cooper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Manganese	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Chromium	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Alpha Lipoic Acid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	✓	✓
Gymnema	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	✓	
Green Tea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Banaba	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	✓	
Bitter Melon Fruit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Beta Glucan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

# Your Notes:

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