




**GLP-1 Receptor Agonists for the Management of Type 2 Diabetes:
Pharmacist Focus on the Evolving Treatment Landscape**

Part 3

**The Role of GLP-1 RAs in the Management of Type 2 Diabetes and
Cardiovascular Risk: Putting it All Together**



This educational activity is sponsored by
Postgraduate Healthcare Education, LLC
and supported by an educational grant
from Novo Nordisk Inc.

Faculty

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Dr. Neumiller is a Certified Diabetes Educator, a Fellow of the American Association of Diabetes Educators, a Fellow of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, and a member of the WSU Geriatrics Team. Josh is a contributing author for the American Diabetes Association (ADA) books *Medications for the Treatment of Diabetes* and *Practical Insulin*. Josh is past Editor-in-Chief for the ADA journal *Diabetes Spectrum*, and he served as Chairman of the ADA's Professional Practice Committee in 2018 and 2019, whose primary responsibility is revising the ADA Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes each year.

Josh's research interests involve the management of diabetes and prevention of adverse drug events during transitions in care. Josh was awarded the 2016 Albert B. Prescott Pharmacy Leadership Award for his work in diabetes care.

Disclosures

Dr. Neumiller has no actual or potential conflicts of interest in relation to this program.

The clinical reviewer, Heather P. Whitley, PharmD, BCPS, CDE has no actual or potential conflicts of interest in relation to this program.

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- **UAN:** 0430-0000-20-001-L01-P
- **Credits:** 1.25 hour (0.125 ceu)
- **Activity Type:** Application

Learning Objectives

- **Discuss** current clinical recommendations for the use of glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs) in the management of type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM)
- **Review** dosing, administration, and safety considerations for agents within the GLP-1 RA class
- **Formulate** a comprehensive management plan for a patient with T2DM and established atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD)

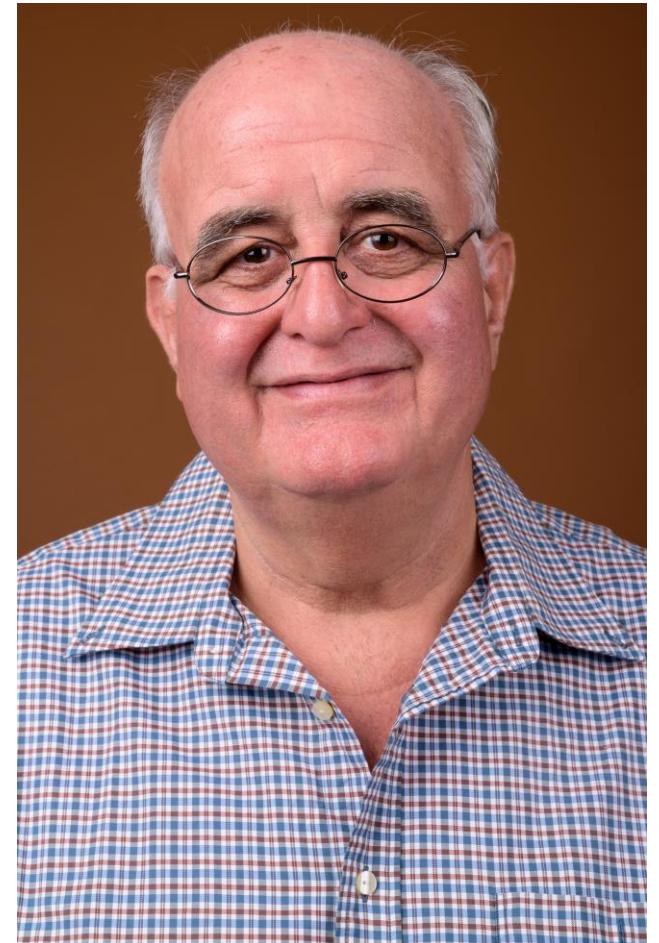


Case Study

Case Scenario: JM

JM is a 65-year-old gentleman with T2DM of 8 years duration

JM presents to the pharmacotherapy clinic today following referral by his primary care provider for a diabetes/medication regimen evaluation



Case Scenario: JM

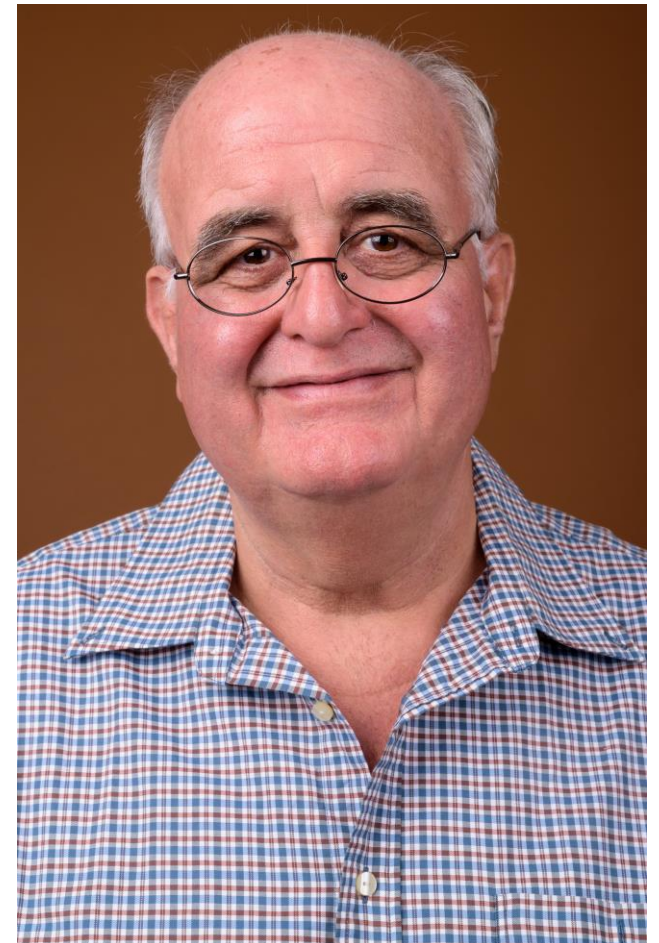
Past medical history:

- T2DM
- Hypertension
- Hypercholesterolemia
- Hx CABG (January 2019)
- Peripheral vascular disease
- Obesity

Current medications:

- Metformin ER 1000 mg twice daily
- Linagliptin 5 mg once daily
- Rosuvastatin 20 mg once daily
- Lisinopril 20 mg once daily
- Amlodipine 10 mg once daily
- ASA 81 mg once daily
- MVI once daily

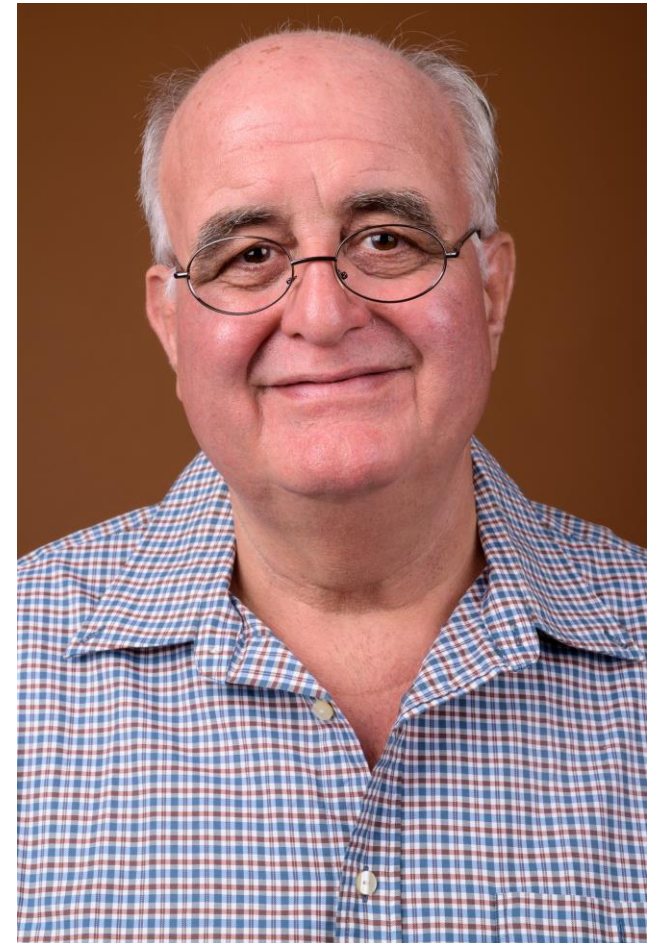
ASA, acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin); CABG, coronary artery bypass graft; ER, extended release; MVI, multivitamin.



Case Scenario: JM

Social history:

- Lives with his wife of 36 years
- Works full time as a software engineer
- No history of tobacco use
- Consumes alcohol infrequently
- Self-reports that he “could eat better”
- Engages in limited physical activity



Case Scenario: JM

Vitals:

Weight: 232 lbs (BMI = 34 kg/m²)

BP: 128/84 mmHg (avg, 3 seated readings)

BG: 116 mg/dL (fasting)

POC A1C: 7.1%

Laboratory findings (fasting, December 2019):

SCr: 1.5 mg/dL

eGFR (MDRD): 50 mL/min/1.73 m²

Na: 139 mEq/L

K: 4.9 mEq/L

UACR: 60 mg/g

LDL-C: 88 mg/dL

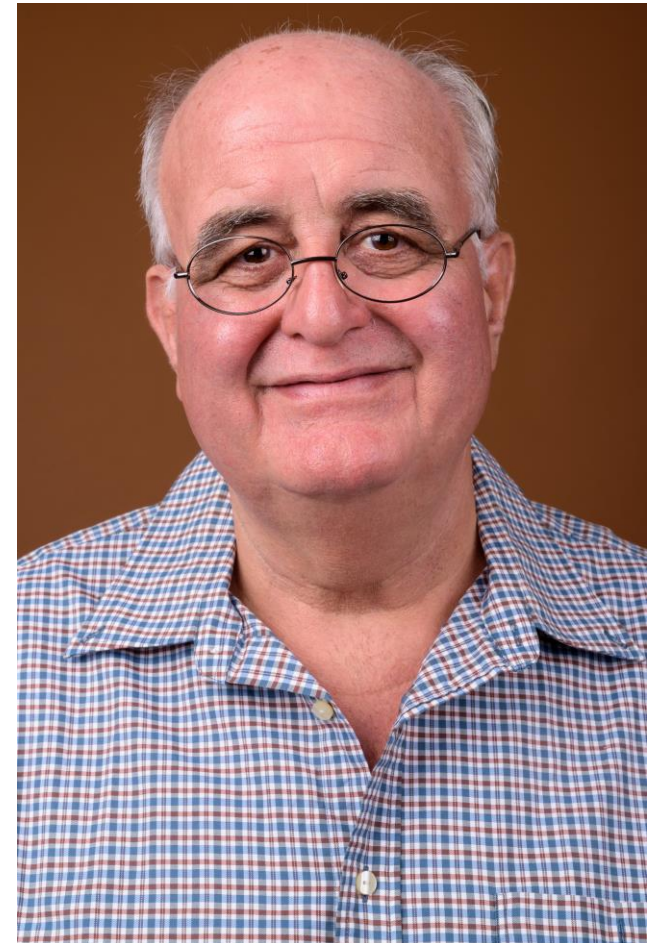
HDL-C: 40 mg/dL

Trig: 148 mg/dL

JM: Questions to Consider

Based on the information available:

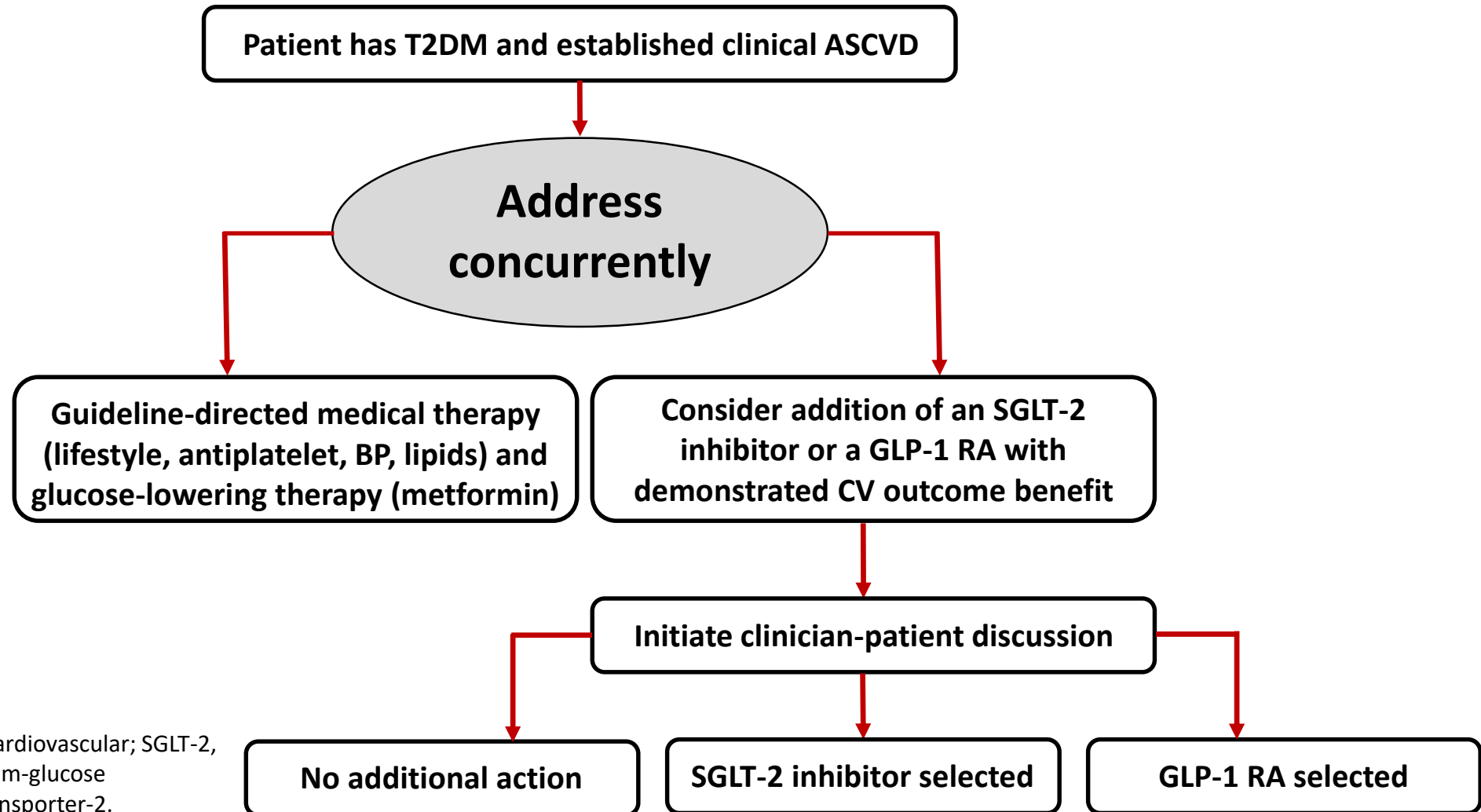
- Is his current glycemic control adequate?
- Is his current glucose-lowering regimen appropriate? Should any changes be considered?
- What interventions could be considered to improve his overall care?





Recent Guidance on the Use of GLP-1 RAs in Patients with T2DM

2018 American College of Cardiology (ACC) Expert Consensus Decision Pathway



CV, cardiovascular; SGLT-2, sodium-glucose cotransporter-2.

2018 ACC Expert Consensus Decision Pathway

Recommended opportunities to initiate a GLP-1 RA or an SGLT-2 inhibitor with demonstrated benefit in patients with clinical ASCVD and T2DM:

- In a patient with T2DM and ASCVD
- At the time of diagnosis of clinical ASCVD in a patient with T2DM on a drug regimen that does not include a GLP-1 RA or an SGLT-2 inhibitor with CV benefit
- At the time of diagnosis of T2DM in a patient with clinical ASCVD
- At hospital discharge after admission for an ASCVD- or diabetes-related clinical event

2018 ACC Expert Consensus Decision Pathway

Consider using a GLP-1 RA first when patient and clinician priorities include:	Consider using an SGLT-2 inhibitor first when patient and clinician priorities include:
Reducing MACE and CV death	Reducing MACE and CV death
Substantial weight loss	Preventing heart failure hospitalization
Once-weekly dosing	Reducing blood pressure
When eGFR is consistently < 45 mL/min/1.73 m ²	Orally administered therapy
Consider alternative agents if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persistent nausea, even at low doses • History of pancreatitis • History of gastroparesis • History of MEN2 or medullary thyroid cancer • History of proliferative retinopathy (semaglutide) 	Consider alternative agents if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant CKD • History of prior amputation, severe PAD, neuropathy, or foot ulcers (canagliflozin) • History of recurrent genital candidiasis • History of diabetic ketoacidosis • History of osteoporosis (canagliflozin)

ARS Question #1

Which of the following is NOT a scenario in which the 2020 American Diabetes Association (ADA) Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes recommend consideration of a GLP-1 RA for use in patients with T2DM?

- A. When there is a compelling need to minimize weight gain or promote weight loss
- B. When there is a compelling need to minimize hypoglycemia
- C. To decrease cardiovascular risk in patients with established ASCVD
- D. When drug cost is a major consideration
- E. Unsure

ADA Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes

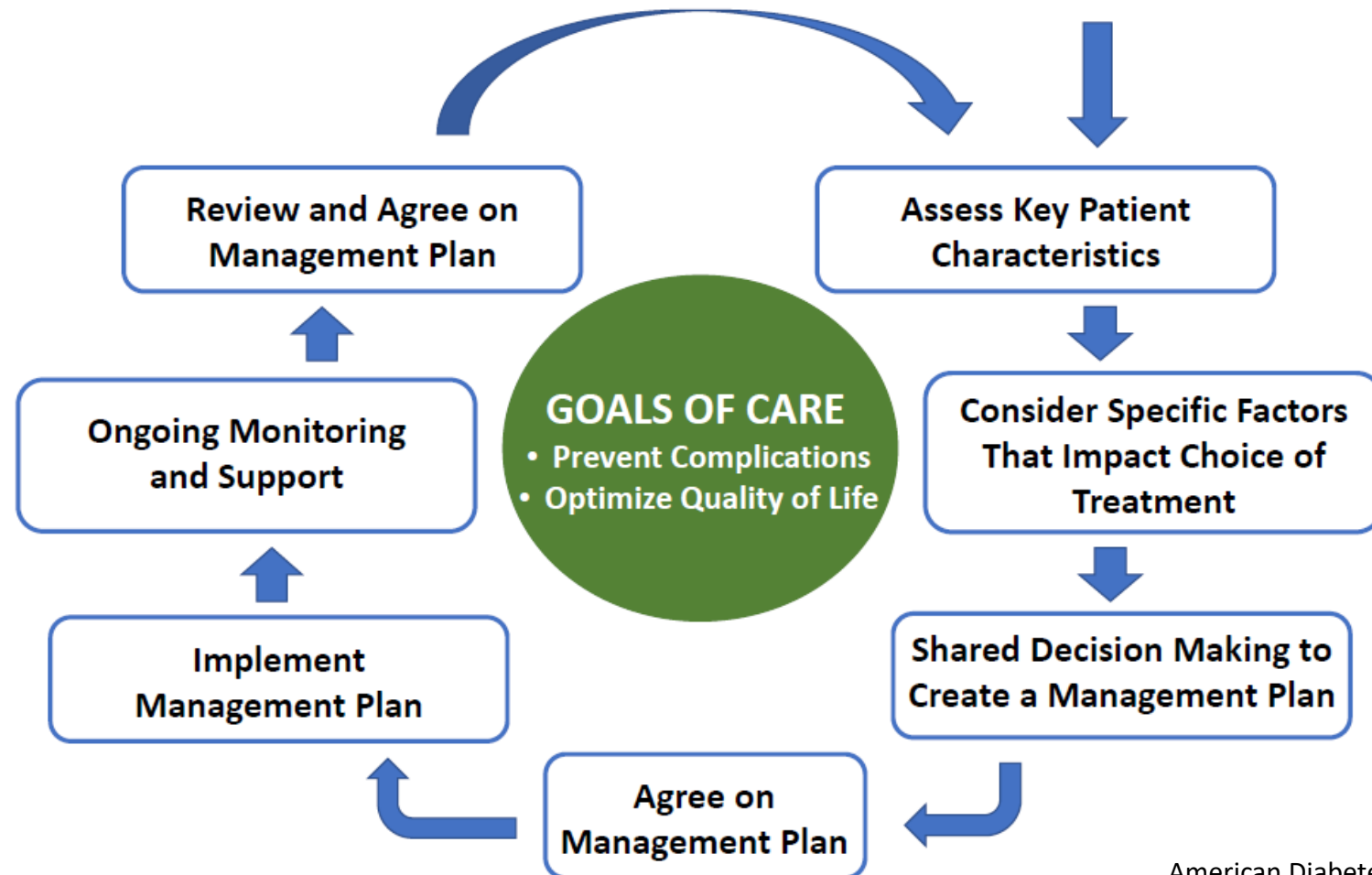
- Beginning with the 2018 ADA Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes, the Standards document became a “living” document in which notable updates are incorporated into the Standards
- Updates will be made in response to important events inclusive of, but not limited to:
 - Approval of new treatments (medications or devices) with the potential to impact patient care;
 - Publication of new findings that support a change to a recommendation and/or evidence level of a recommendation; or
 - Publication of a consensus document endorsed by the ADA that necessitates an update of the Standards to align content of the documents

Glycemic Recommendations for Many Nonpregnant Adults with Diabetes

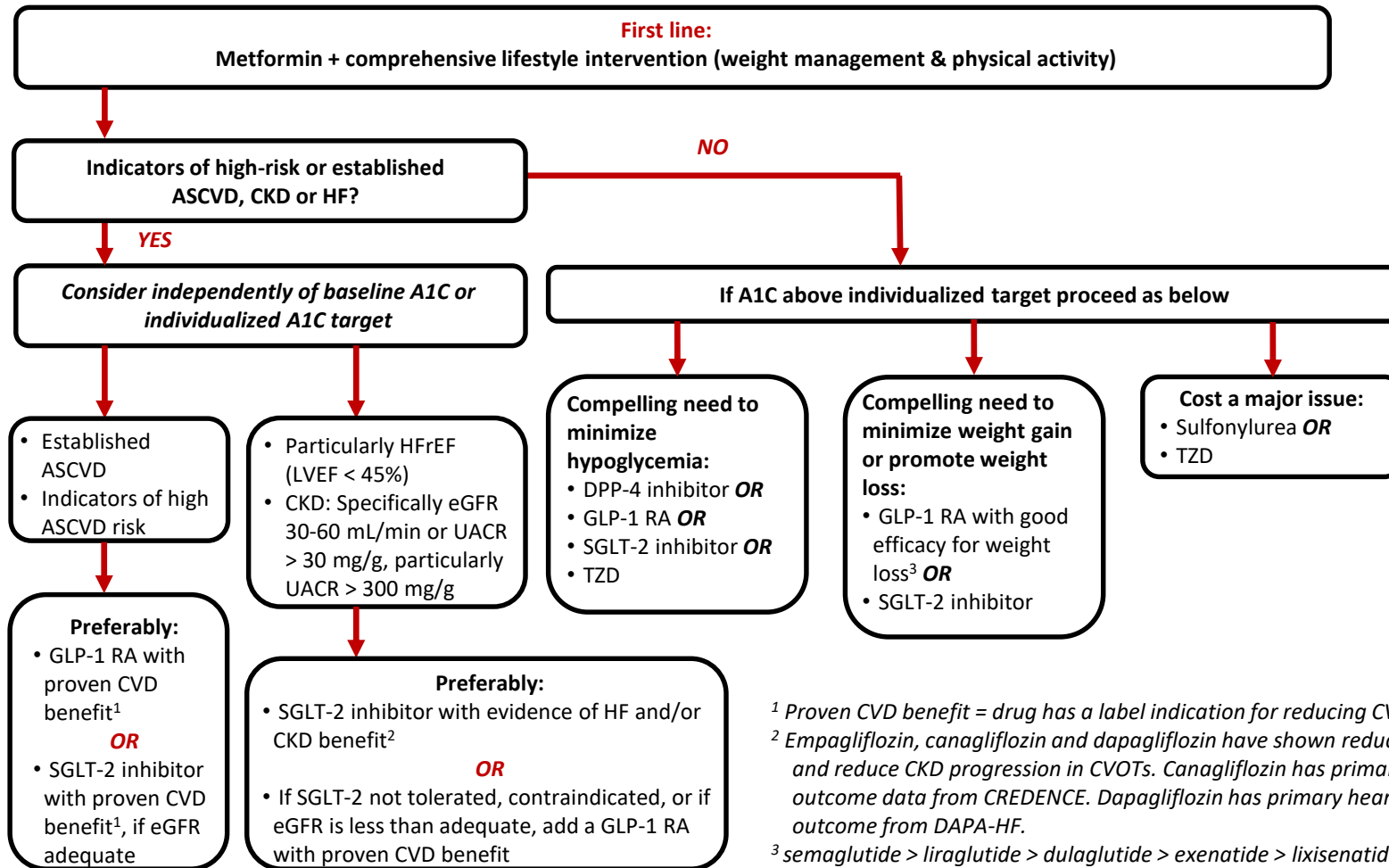
Measure	Target
Hemoglobin A1c (A1C)	< 7.0%*
Preprandial (fasting) glucose	80-130 mg/dL*
Peak postprandial glucose (1-2 h)	< 180 mg/dL*

****More or less stringent glycemic goals may be appropriate for individual patients***

Decision Cycle for Patient-Centered Glycemic Management in T2DM



Glucose-Lowering Medication Use in T2DM



¹ Proven CVD benefit = drug has a label indication for reducing CVD events

² Empagliflozin, canagliflozin and dapagliflozin have shown reduction in HF and reduce CKD progression in CVOTs. Canagliflozin has primary renal outcome data from CREDENCE. Dapagliflozin has primary heart failure outcome from DAPA-HF.

³ semaglutide > liraglutide > dulaglutide > exenatide > lixisenatide

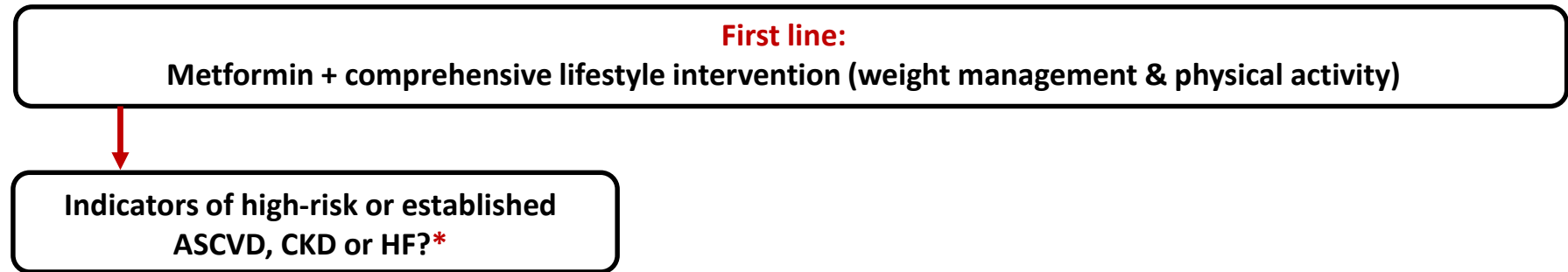
Glucose-Lowering Medication Use in T2DM

First line:

Metformin + comprehensive lifestyle intervention (weight management & physical activity)

- 9.4** Metformin is the preferred initial pharmacologic agent for the treatment of T2DM. **A**
- 9.5** Once initiated, metformin should be continued as long as it is tolerated and not contraindicated; other agents, including insulin, should be added to metformin. **A**
- 9.6** Early combination therapy can be considered in some patients at treatment initiation to extend the time to treatment failure. **A**

Glucose-Lowering Medication Use in T2DM



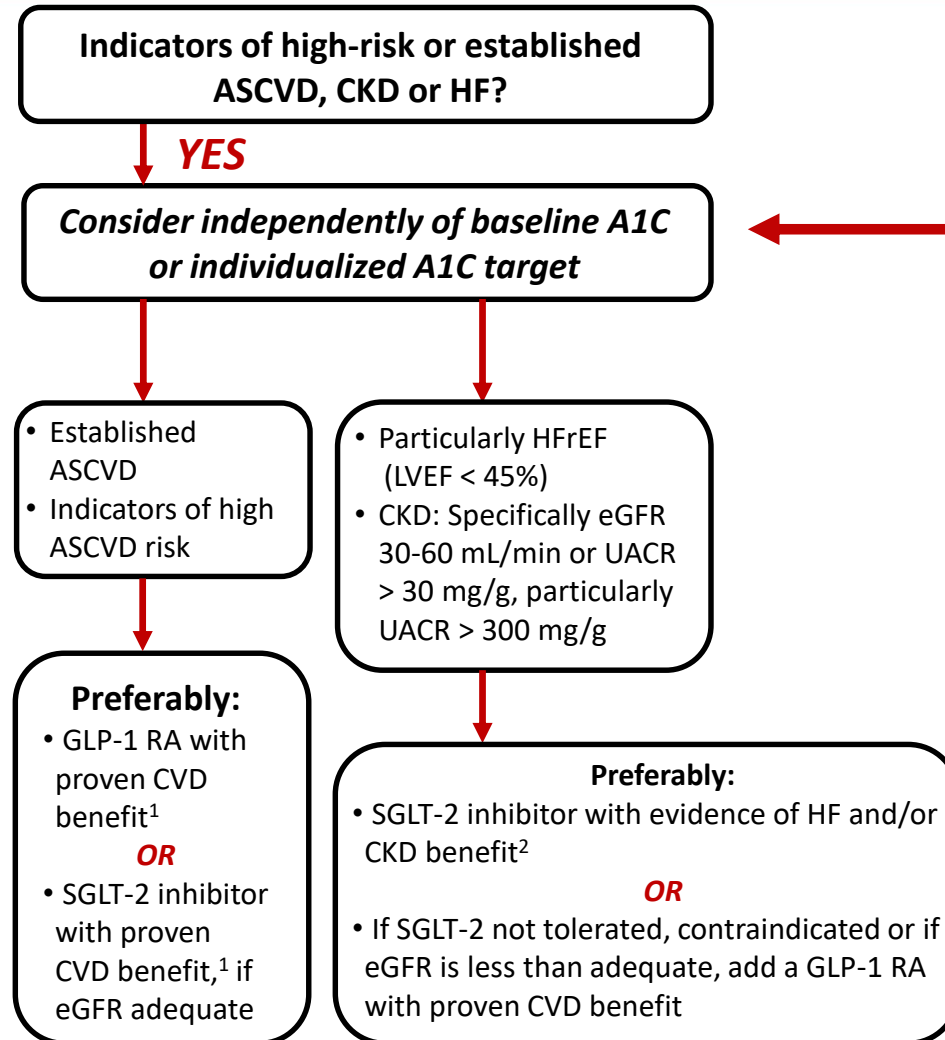
****Actioned whenever these become new clinical considerations regardless of background glucose-lowering medications***

Glucose-Lowering Medication Use in T2DM

9.8 A patient-centered approach should be used to guide the choice of pharmacologic agents. Considerations include cardiovascular comorbidities, hypoglycemia risk, impact on weight, cost, risk for side effects, and patient preferences. **E**

9.9 Among patients with T2DM who have established ASCVD or indicators of high risk, established kidney disease, or heart failure, an SGLT-2 inhibitor or a GLP-1 RA with demonstrated CVD benefit is recommended as part of the glucose-lowering regimen independent of A1C and in consideration of patient-specific factors. **A**

Glucose-Lowering Medication Use in T2DM



Key Change in 2020:

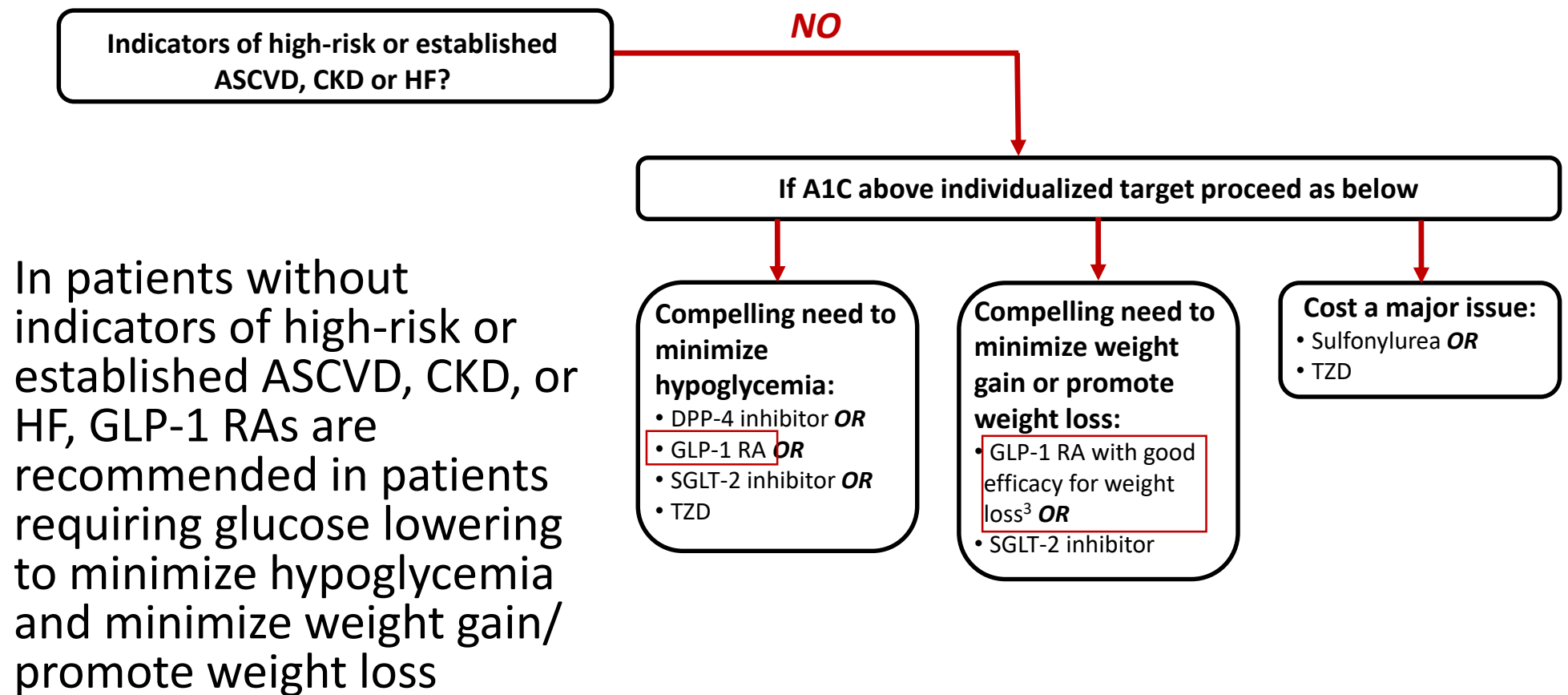
- For patients with indicators of high-risk or established ASCVD, CKD or HF – use of agents with established evidence for risk reduction should be considered *independently* of current A1C and/or A1C target

Glucose-Lowering Medication Use in T2DM

9.8 A patient-centered approach should be used to guide the choice of pharmacologic agents. Considerations include cardiovascular comorbidities, hypoglycemia risk, impact on weight, cost, risk for side effects, and patient preferences. **E**

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Glucose-Lowering Medication Use in T2DM



Glucose-Lowering Medication Use in T2DM

Compelling need to minimize weight gain or promote weight loss:

- GLP-1 RA with good efficacy for weight loss³ **OR**
- SGLT-2 inhibitor

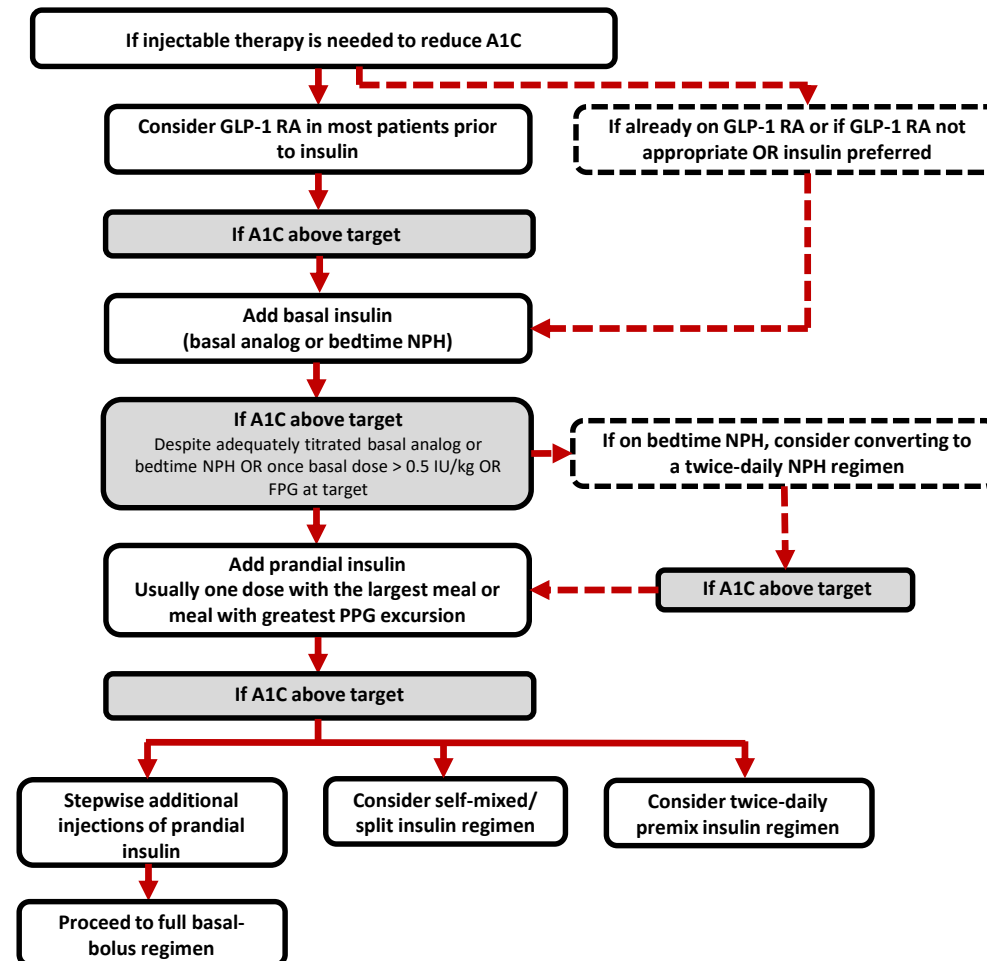
³ *semaglutide > liraglutide > dulaglutide > exenatide > lixisenatide*

ARS Question #2

The 2020 ADA Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes recommend which of the following be considered as the first injectable agent in most patients requiring an injectable agent to meet individualized A1C goals?

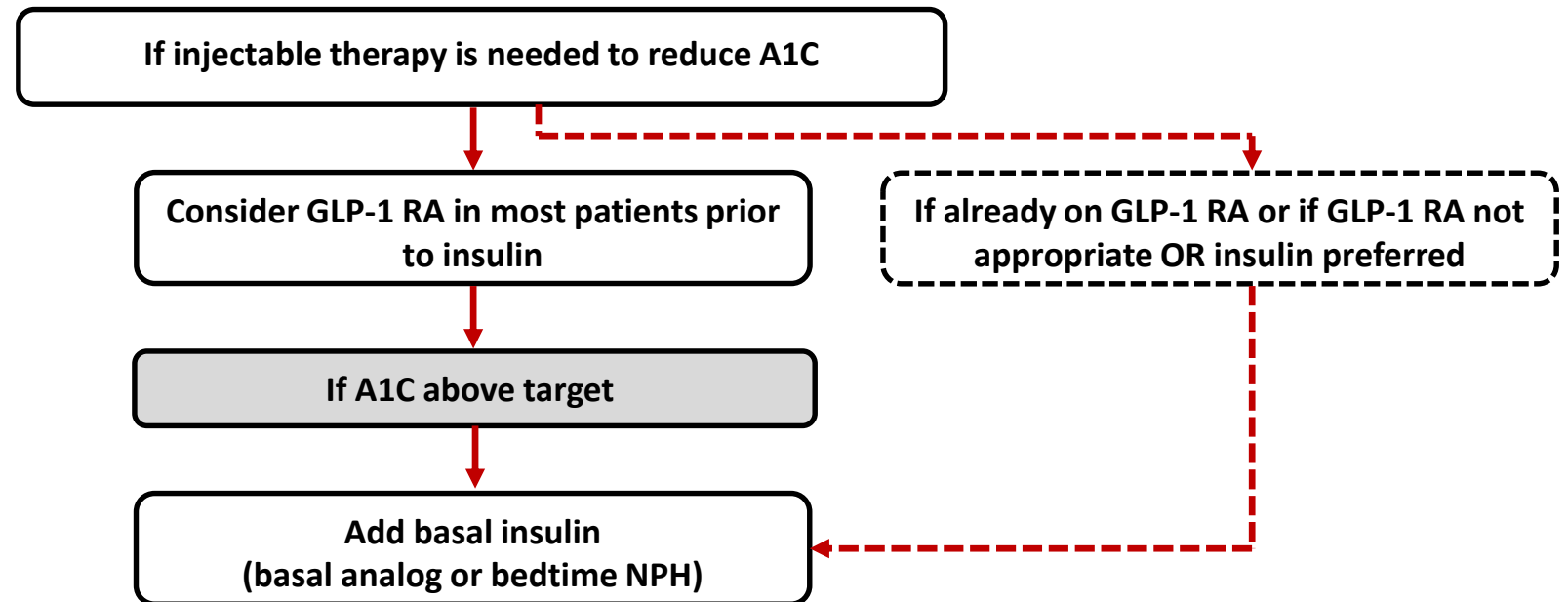
- A. Basal insulin
- B. Injectable GLP-1 RA
- C. Rapid-acting insulin
- D. Premix insulin product
- E. Unsure

Use of Injectable Glucose-Lowering Agents in T2DM



FPG, fasting plasma glucose;
PPG, postprandial glucose.

Use of Injectable Glucose-Lowering Agents in T2DM



9.10 In patients with T2DM who need greater glucose lowering than can be obtained with oral agents, GLP-1 RAs are preferred to insulin when possible. **B**

Insulin Glargine/Lixisenatide

Fixed-dose combination product

- Insulin glargine (U-100)
- Lixisenatide (short-acting GLP-1 RA) – 33 mcg/mL
- Initiation:
 - **For patients naïve to components, on a GLP-1 RA, or on < 30 units basal insulin:**
 - 15 units insulin glargine U-100 (5 mcg lixisenatide)
 - **For patients on 30 - 60 units basal insulin:**
 - 30 units insulin glargine U-100 (10 mcg lixisenatide)
- Administration: within 1 hour before the first meal of the day
- Titration: titrate by 2 - 4 units (insulin glargine U-100 component) once weekly based on FPG or hypoglycemia

Insulin Degludec/Liraglutide

- **Fixed-dose combination product**
 - Insulin degludec (U-100)
 - Liraglutide (once-daily GLP-1 RA) – 3.6 mg/mL
- Initiation:
 - **Naïve to basal insulin or GLP-1 RA:**
 - 10 units insulin degludec (0.36 mg liraglutide) once daily
 - **Currently taking a basal insulin or GLP-1 RA:**
 - 16 units insulin degludec (0.58 mg liraglutide) once daily
- Administration: same time once daily (with or without food)
- Titration: Titrate by 2 units (insulin degludec) every 3 - 4 days based on FPG or hypoglycemia

Fixed-Ratio GLP-1 RA + Basal Insulin Products

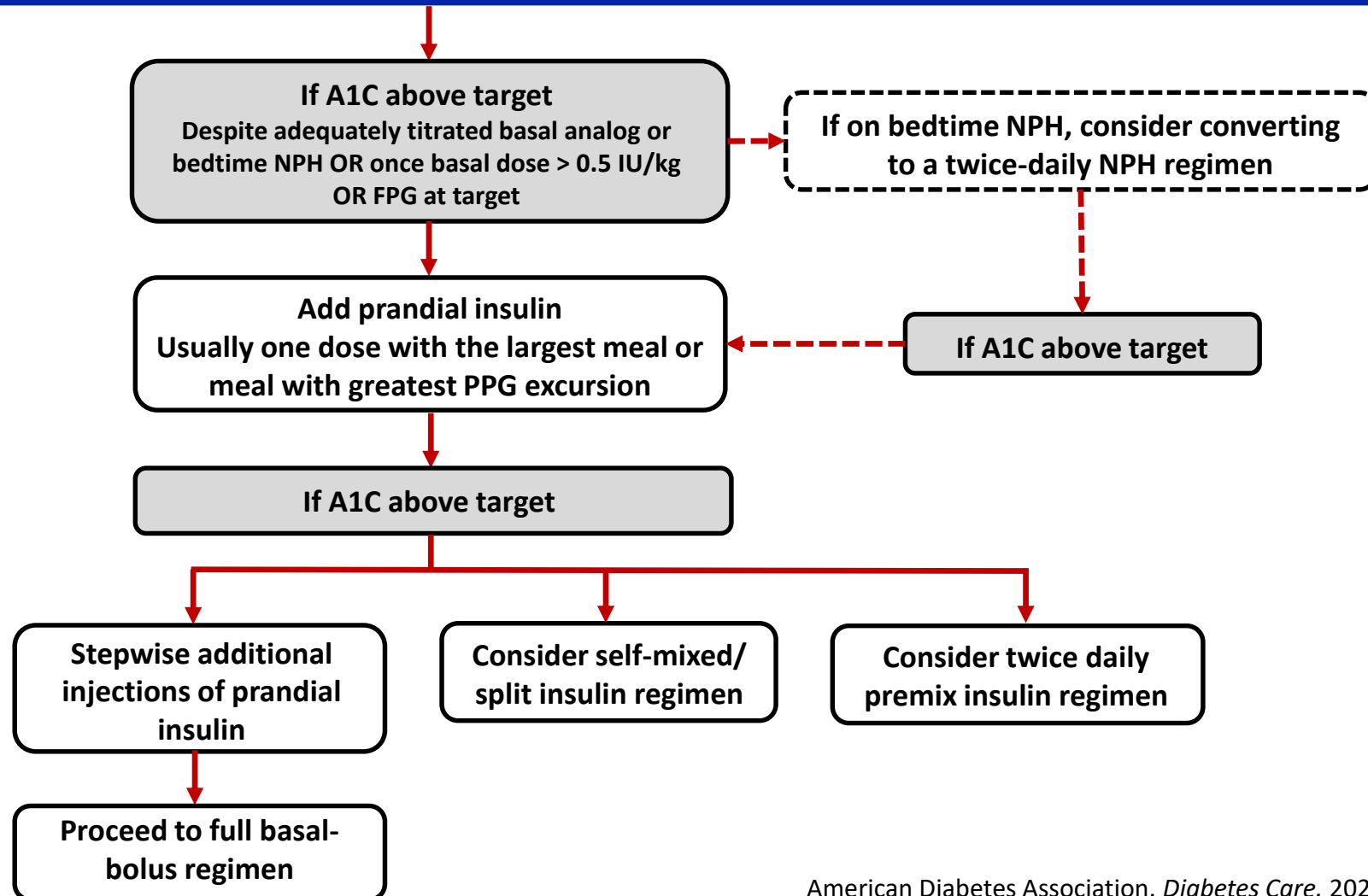
Insulin glargine/lixisenatide

- Unit dose markings from 0 to 2 for priming
- No markings from 3 to 14 units
- Dose unit markings from 15 to 60 units

Insulin degludec/liraglutide

- Dosing unit "line" at 2 units for priming
- No markings until 10 units
- Dose unit markings from 10 to 50 units

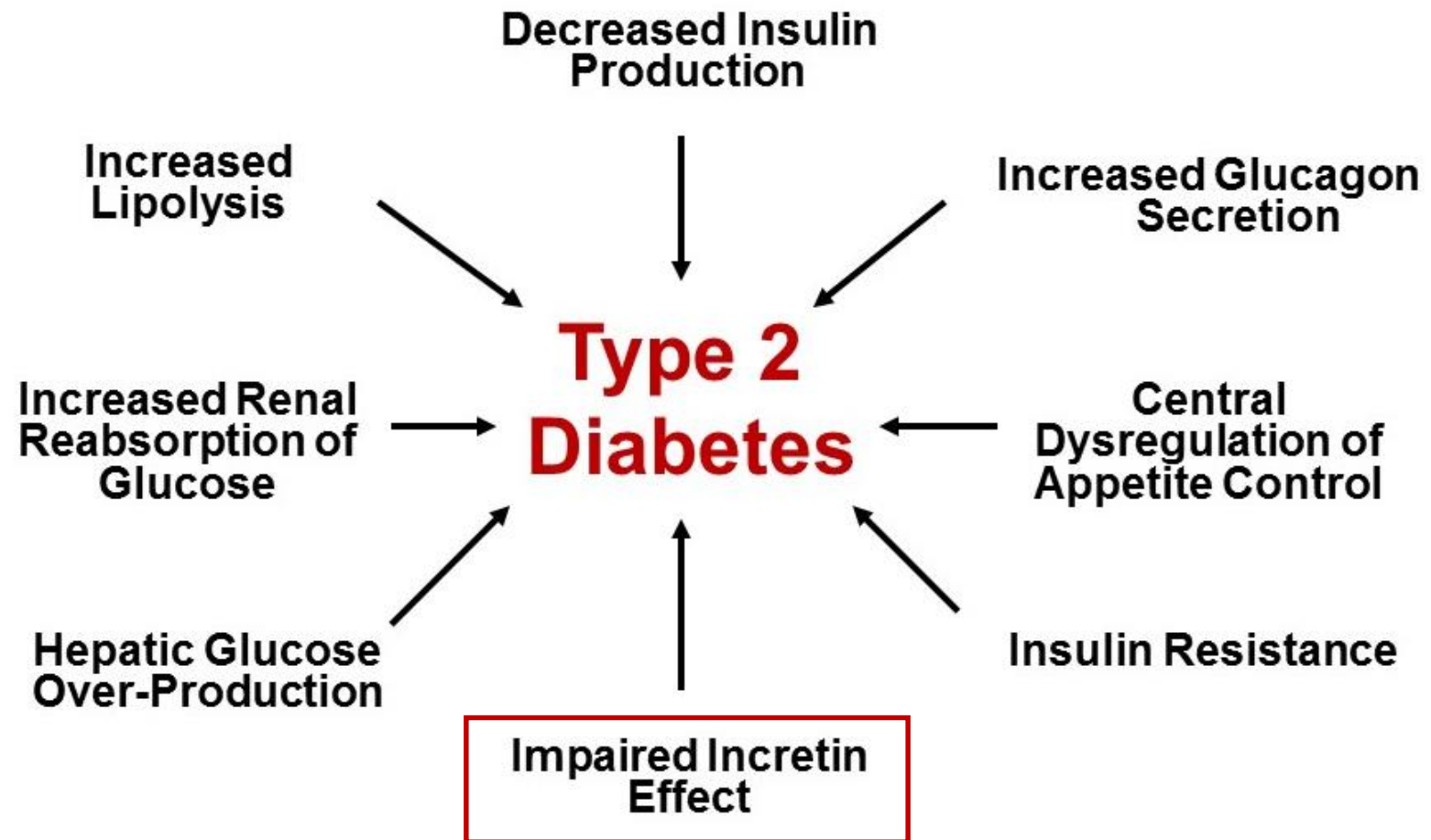
Use of Injectable Glucose-Lowering Agents in T2DM



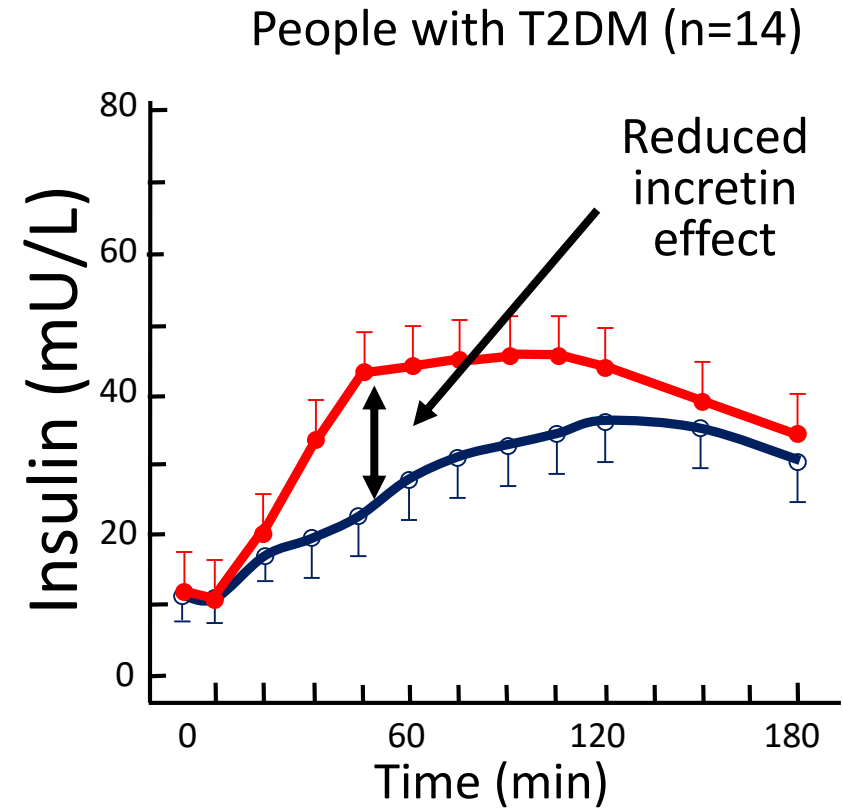
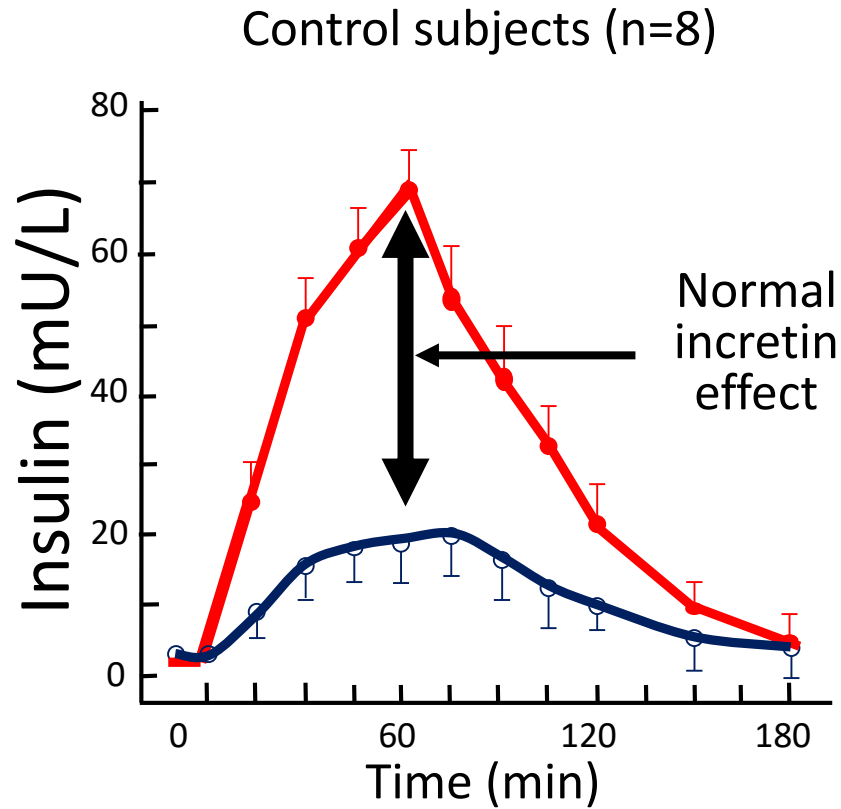


Review of Currently Available GLP-1 RA Products

Pathophysiologic Defects in T2DM



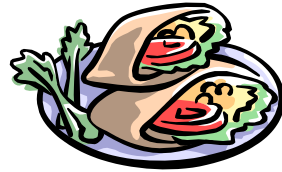
The Incretin Effect



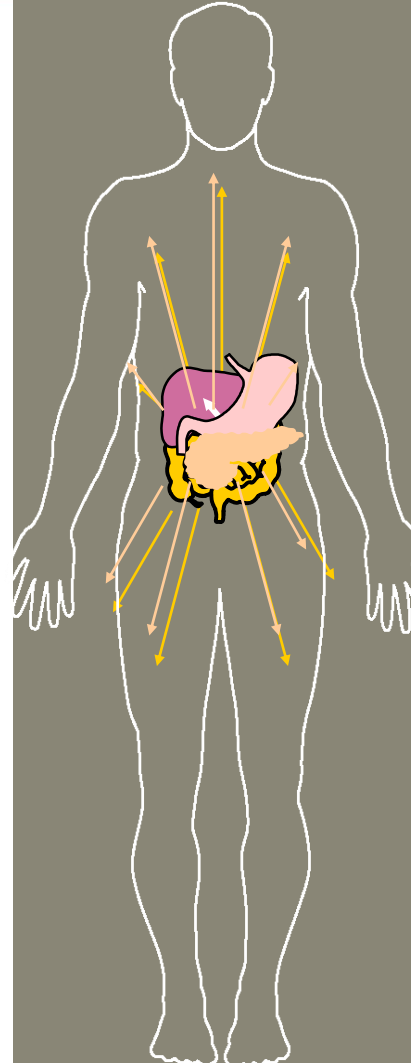
- Oral glucose load
- Intravenous glucose infusion

GLP-1: Effects in Humans

After food ingestion...



GLP-1 is secreted from
L-cells of the jejunum
and ileum



That, in turn, ...

- Stimulates glucose-dependent insulin secretion
- Suppresses glucagon secretion
- Slows gastric emptying
- Leads to a reduction of food intake

Drucker DJ. *Curr Pharm Des.* 2001;7(14):1399-412.;

Drucker DJ. *Mol Endocrinol.* 2003;17(2):161-71.;

Drucker DJ. *Cell Metab.* 2006;3(3):153-65.

Pharmacologic Approaches to Enhancing the Incretin Effect

The incretin effect is blunted in people with T2DM and endogenous GLP-1 has an extremely short half-life



Block DPP-4 to slow the enzymatic degradation of endogenous GLP-1:

- Alogliptin
- Linagliptin
- Saxagliptin
- Sitagliptin

Use GLP-1 analogs with longer half-lives:

- Exenatide
- Lixisenatide
- Liraglutide
- Exenatide XR
- Dulaglutide
- Semaglutide (injectable & oral)

Currently Available GLP-1 RA Products

	GLP-1 RA "type"	Route of administration	Administration frequency	Half-life	Recommended renal dose adjustment
Short-acting agents					
Exenatide	Exendin-4-based	SC injection	Twice daily	~2.4 h	Not recommended with CrCl < 30 mL/min
Lixisenatide	Exendin-4-based	SC injection	Once daily	~3 h	Not recommended with CrCl < 15 mL/min
Long-acting agents					
Liraglutide	Human-GLP-1-based	SC injection	Once daily	~13 h	No dosage adjustments recommended
Exenatide XR	Exendin-4-Based	SC injection	Once weekly	~1 w	Not recommended with eGFR < 45 mL/min/1.73 m ² or ESRD
Dulaglutide	Human-GLP-1-based	SC injection	Once weekly	~5 d	No dosage adjustments recommended
Semaglutide	Human-GLP-1-based	SC injection	Once weekly	~1 w	No dosage adjustments recommended
		Oral	Once daily		

CrCl, creatinine clearance; d, days; ESRD, end-stage renal disease; h, hours; SC, subcutaneous; w, weeks.

Adlyxin [prescribing information]. 2016.; Bydureon [prescribing information]. 2018.; Byetta [prescribing information]. 2015.; Ozempic [prescribing information]. 2017.; Rybelsus [prescribing information]. 2019.; Trulicity [prescribing information]. 2017.; Victoza [prescribing information]. 2017.

Currently Available Injectable GLP-1 RA Products

	Short-acting		Long-acting			
	Exenatide	Lixisenatide	Liraglutide	Exenatide XR	Dulaglutide	Semaglutide
Dose titration	5 mcg twice daily x 1 month; increase to 10 mcg twice daily	10 mcg once daily x 14 days; increase to 20 mcg daily	0.6 mg once daily x 1 week; increase to 1.2 mg daily x 1 week; increase to 1.8 mg daily	2 mg once weekly	0.75 mg once weekly; increase to 1.5 mg once weekly	0.25 mg once weekly x 4 weeks; increase to 0.5 mg x 4 weeks; increase to 1 mg once weekly
Administration timing	Take within 60 minutes before meals	Take within 60 minutes before morning meal	Take at same time each day	Take on same day each week	Take on same day each week	Take on same day each week
Pen availability	Multi-use pen (2 strengths)	Multi-use pen (2 strengths)	Multi-use pen	Single-use pen	Single-use pen (2 strengths)	Multi-use pen (2 pen options)

Adlyxin [prescribing information]. 2016.; Bydureon [prescribing information]. 2018.; Byetta [prescribing information]. 2015.; Ozempic [prescribing information]. 2017.; Rybelsus [prescribing information]. 2019.; Trulicity [prescribing information]. 2017.; Victoza [prescribing information]. 2017.

CVOT Summary of Trials with Injectable GLP-1 RAs

	ELIXA (n = 6068)	LEADER (n = 9340)	SUSTAIN-6 (n = 3297)	EXSCCEL (n = 14,752)	REWIND (n = 9901)
Agent	Lixisenatide	Liraglutide	Semaglutide	Exenatide XR	Dulaglutide
Median follow-up (years)	2.1	3.8	2.1	3.2	5.4
Metformin use (%)	66	76	73	77	81
Prior CVD (%)	100	81	60	73.1	32
Mean baseline A1C (%)	7.7	8.7	8.7	8.0	7.4
Primary outcome	4-point MACE 1.02 (0.89–1.17)	3-point MACE 0.87 (0.78–0.97)	3-point MACE 0.74 (0.58–0.95)	3-point MACE 0.91 (0.83–1.00)	3-point MACE 0.88 (0.79–0.99)
Cardiovascular death	0.98 (0.78–1.22)	0.78 (0.66–0.93)	0.98 (0.65–1.48)	0.88 (0.76–1.02)	0.91 (0.78–1.06)
MI	1.03 (0.87–1.22)	0.86 (0.73–1.00)	0.74 (0.51–1.08)	0.97 (0.85–1.10)	0.96 (0.79–1.15)
Stroke	1.12 (0.79–1.58)	0.86 (0.71–1.06)	0.61 (0.38–0.99)	0.85 (0.70–1.03)	0.76 (0.61–0.95)
All-cause mortality	0.94 (0.78–1.13)	0.85 (0.74–0.97)	1.05 (0.74–1.50)	0.86 (0.77–0.97)	0.90 (0.80–1.01)
Worsening nephropathy	-	0.78 (0.67–0.92)	0.64 (0.46–0.88)	-	0.85 (0.77–0.93)

Oral GLP-1 RA Product: Semaglutide

- First orally available GLP-1 RA
- Co-formulated with the absorption enhancer sodium *N*-[8-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)aminocaprylate] – AKA “**SNAC**”
 - Facilitates transcellular absorption of semaglutide in the stomach
 - Increases local pH around the tablet
 - Increased drug solubility
 - Protection against proteolytic degradation

Oral Semaglutide: Administration

- Take at least 30 minutes before the first food, beverage, or other oral medication of the day
 - Take with no more than 4 ounces of plain water only
 - Swallow tablets whole: do not crush or chew
- Dose titration:
 - Start with 3 mg once daily for 30 days
 - Increase to 7 mg once daily for 30 days
 - Increase to 14 mg once daily, if needed, for additional glycemic control

CVOT Summary for Oral Semaglutide: PIONEER-6

	PIONEER-6 (n = 3183)
Agent	Oral semaglutide
Median follow-up (months)	15.9
Metformin use (%)	77.4
Prior CVD (%)	84.7
Mean baseline A1C (%)	8.2
Primary outcome	3-point MACE 0.79 (0.57–1.11)*
Cardiovascular death	0.49 (0.27–0.92)†
MI	1.18 (0.73–1.90)†
Stroke	0.74 (0.35–1.57)†
All-cause mortality	0.51 (0.31–0.84)†

*P<0.001 for noninferiority; P=0.17 for superiority

†Not controlled for multiple comparisons; interpreted as exploratory

GLP-1 RAs: Pros & Cons

Pros:

- High efficacy
- Low hypoglycemia risk (monotherapy or combination with metformin)
- Cardiovascular & renal benefits
- Weight loss

Potential cons:

- Cost
- Injectable (most)
- GI intolerance (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea)
- **Rare/serious safety concerns:** thyroid C-cell tumors (long-acting agents), acute pancreatitis

2018 ACC Expert Consensus Decision Pathway

Consider using a GLP-1 RA first when patient and clinician priorities include:

Reducing MACE and CV death

Substantial weight loss

Once-weekly dosing

When eGFR is consistently $< 45 \text{ mL/min/1.73 m}^2$

Consider alternative agents if:

- Persistent nausea, even at low doses
- History of pancreatitis
- History of gastroparesis
- History of MEN2 or medullary thyroid cancer
- History of proliferative retinopathy (semaglutide)

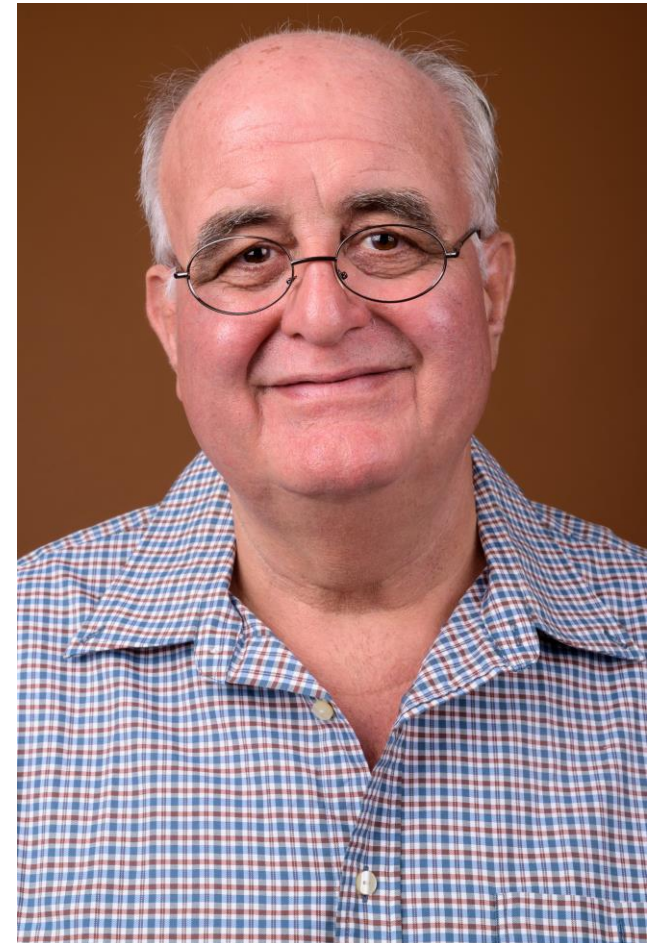


Case Study Debrief

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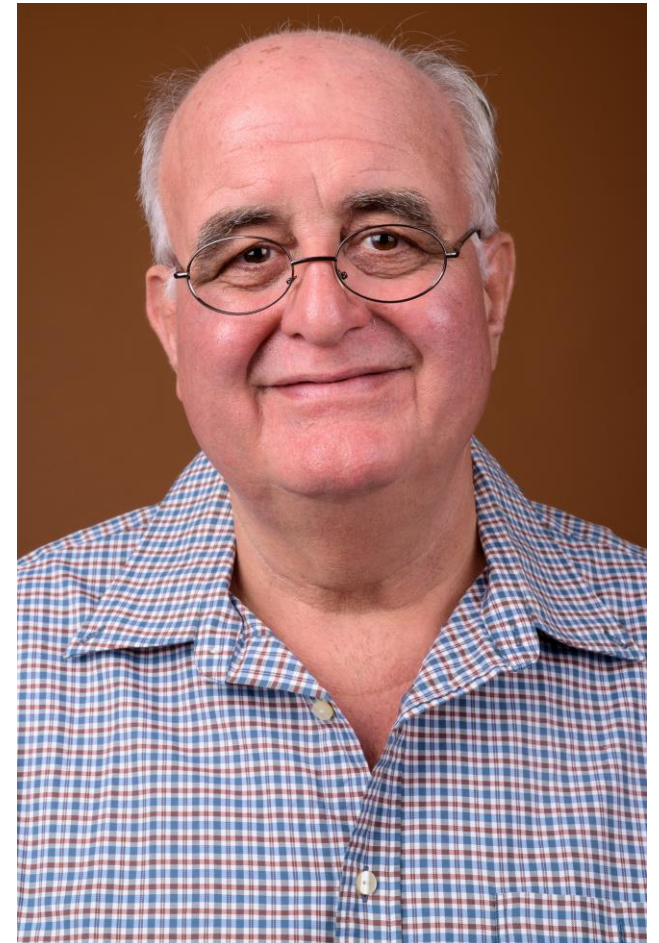
Case Scenario: JM

Past medical history:

- T2DM
- Hypertension
- Hypercholesterolemia
- Hx CABG (January 2019)
- Peripheral vascular disease
- Obesity

Current medications:

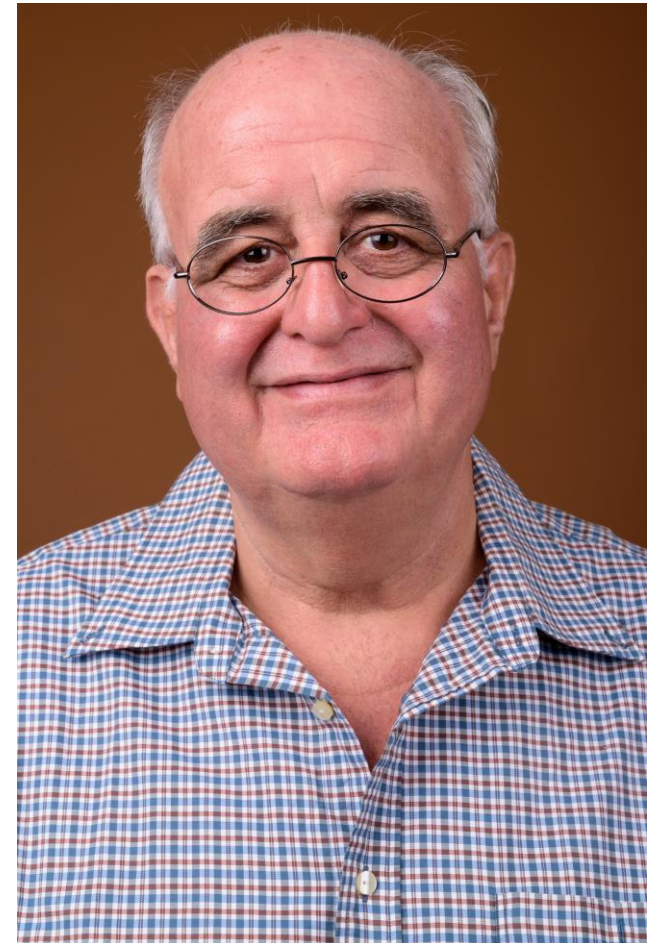
- Metformin ER 1000 mg twice daily
- Linagliptin 5 mg once daily
- Rosuvastatin 20 mg once daily
- Lisinopril 20 mg once daily
- Amlodipine 10 mg once daily
- ASA 81 mg once daily
- MVI once daily



Case Scenario: JM

Social history:

- Lives with his wife of 36 years
- Works full time as a software engineer
- No history of tobacco use
- Consumes alcohol infrequently
- Self-reports that he “could eat better”
- Engages in limited physical activity



Case Scenario: JM

Vitals:

Weight: 232 lbs (BMI = 34 kg/m²)

BP: 128/84 mmHg (avg, 3 seated readings)

BG: 116 mg/dL (fasting)

POC A1C: 7.1%

Laboratory findings (fasting, December 2019):

SCr: 1.5 mg/dL

eGFR (MDRD): 50 mL/min/1.73 m²

Na: 139 mEq/L

K: 4.9 mEq/L

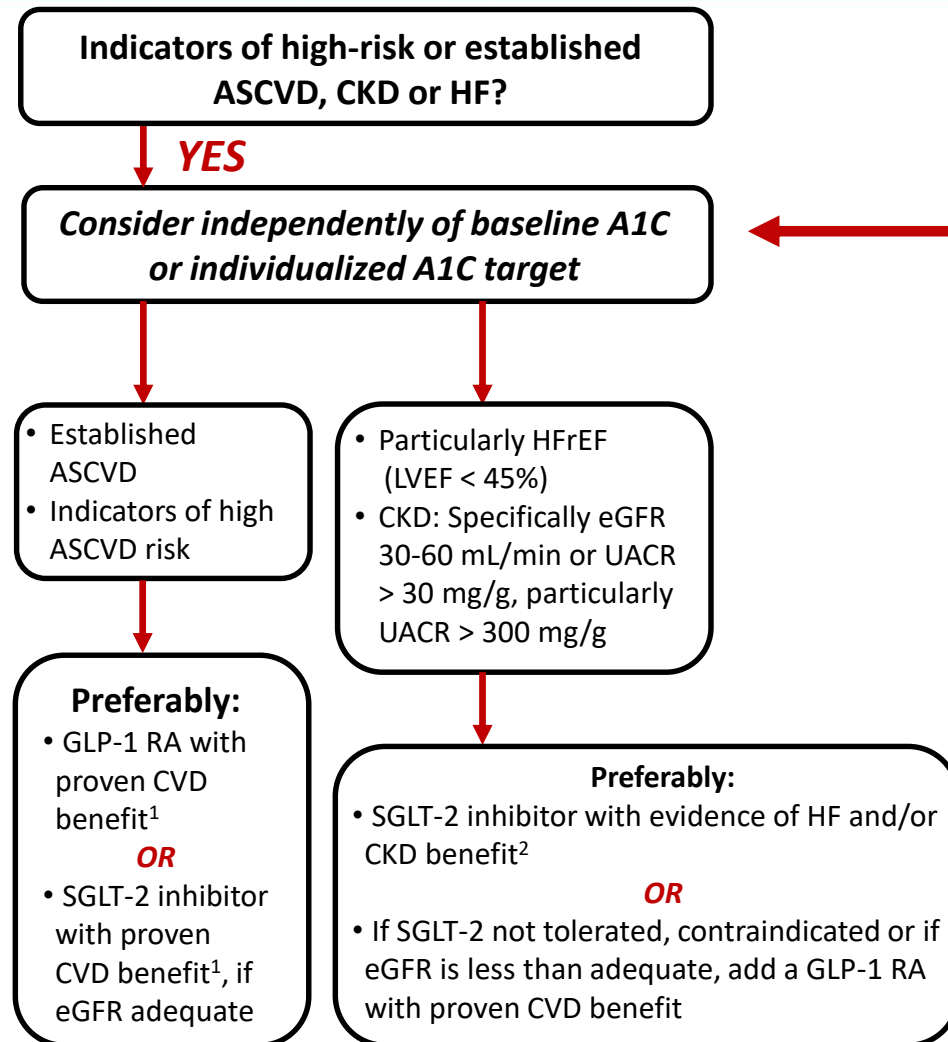
UACR: 60 mg/g

LDL-C: 88 mg/dL

HDL-C: 40 mg/dL

Trig: 148 mg/dL

Glucose-Lowering Medication Use in T2DM



Key Change in 2020:

- For patients with indicators of high-risk or established ASCVD, CKD or HF – use of agents with established evidence for risk reduction should be considered *independently* of current A1C and/or A1C target

2018 ACC Expert Consensus Decision Pathway

Consider using a GLP-1 RA first when patient and clinician priorities include:	Consider using an SGLT-2 inhibitor first when patient and clinician priorities include:
Reducing MACE and CV death	Reducing MACE and CV death
Substantial weight loss	Preventing heart failure hospitalization
Once-weekly dosing	Reducing blood pressure
When eGFR is consistently < 45 mL/min/1.73 m ²	Orally administered therapy
Consider alternative agents if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persistent nausea, even at low doses • History of pancreatitis • History of gastroparesis • History of MEN2 or medullary thyroid cancer • History of proliferative retinopathy (semaglutide) 	Consider alternative agents if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant CKD • History of prior amputation, severe PAD, neuropathy, or foot ulcers (canagliflozin) • History of recurrent genital candidiasis • History of diabetic ketoacidosis • History of osteoporosis (canagliflozin)

ARS Question #3

If it was decided to add a GLP-1 RA to JM's regimen, what other change would you consider making to his medication regimen?

- A. Add an antiemetic medication
- B. Start a fixed-dose GLP-1 RA/basal insulin combination product for additional glucose lowering
- C. Discontinue his DPP-4 inhibitor
- D. Discontinue his statin
- E. Unsure

Considering Oral Therapies in Combination with Injectable Therapies

METFORMIN



Continue treatment with metformin

SGLT2i



If on SGLT2i, continue treatment
Consider adding SGLT2i if

- Established CVD
- If HbA_{1c} above target or as weight reduction aid

SULFONYLUREA



If on SU, stop or reduce dose by 50% when basal insulin initiated

DPP-4i



Stop DPP-4i if GLP-1 RA initiated

TZD¹



Stop TZD when commencing insulin OR reduce dose



Beware

- DKA (euglycemic)
- Instruct on sick-day rules
- Do not down-titrate insulin over-aggressively

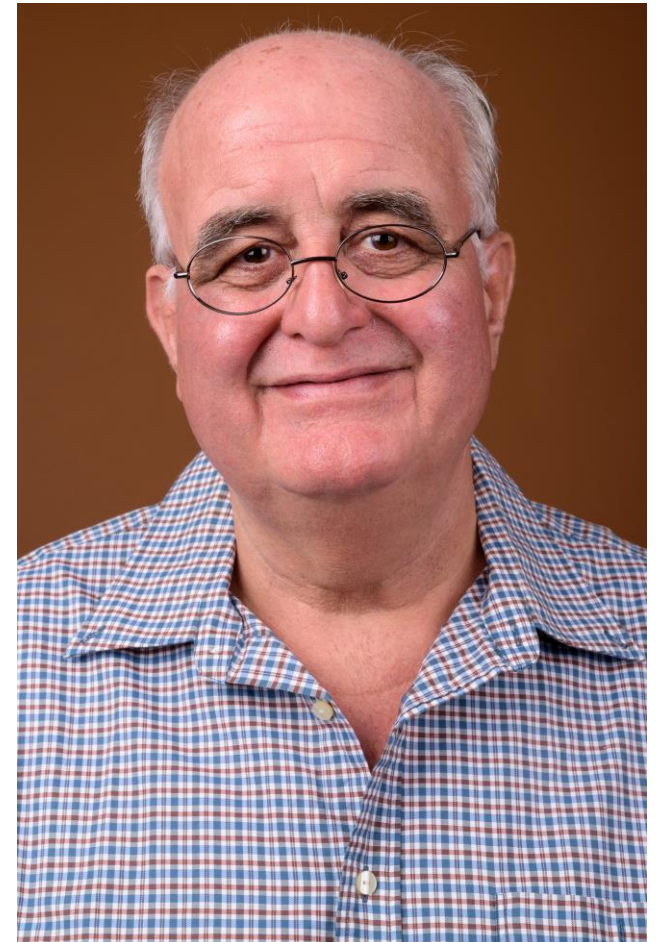


Consider stopping SU if prandial insulin initiated or on a premix regimen

Case Scenario: JM

Treatment plan implemented:

- Referred for DSMES
 - Individualized lifestyle counseling
- Add semaglutide 0.25 mg once weekly
 - Counsel on tolerability, self-injection technique
 - Instruct to call clinic with any questions or concerns
- Continue metformin
- Discontinue linagliptin
- Follow-up by phone in 1 week



Key Takeaways

- Patient-centered decision-making and consistent efforts at improving diet and physical activity remain the foundation of glycemic management
- The management of hyperglycemia in T2DM has become increasingly complex with the expanding number of glucose-lowering medications available and our expanding understanding of their impact on CV and renal outcomes, with GLP-1 RAs playing an increasingly important role in treatment
- Initial use of metformin, followed by the addition of glucose-lowering medications based on patient comorbidities and preferences, is recommended




Question & Answer

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