

# Checking your blood sugar

Checking your blood sugar yourself is often the best way to be sure your diabetes is under control. Checking often will tell you:

- If your insulin or other diabetes medicine is working
- How physical activity and the foods you eat affect your blood sugar

Your goal is to keep your blood sugar as close to normal as possible. You'll usually feel better and have more energy when your blood sugar stays at or near normal. Managing your blood sugar can also reduce your risk of developing problems from diabetes.

## How to check your blood sugar

You can check your own blood sugar using a meter. Many different kinds of blood sugar meters are available today. Your diabetes care team can help you choose one and show you how to use it.

## When to check your blood sugar

You and your diabetes care team will decide when and how often you will check your blood sugar. The table shows some times when you might want to check and why.

## Keeping a blood sugar diary

It's important to write down your blood sugar levels so that you can keep track of what makes them go up or down.

See the last page for a diary that you can use to track your blood sugar.



When to check	Why you should check
When you wake up	To see if your blood sugar is staying under control when you're asleep
Before meals or large snacks	To know what your blood sugar is before you eat
1 or 2 hours after meals or large snacks	To see how the food you eat affects your blood sugar
Before and 15 minutes after physical activity	To see how being active affects your blood sugar

## Setting your blood sugar goals

Time	Goals for people with diabetes	Your goals
Before meals	70 to 130 mg/dL	
2 hours after meals	Less than 180 mg/dL	
A1C	Less than 7%	

Adapted from the American Diabetes Association. Standards of medical care in diabetes—2008. *Diabetes Care*. 2008;31(suppl 1):S12-S54.

You and your diabetes care team will set blood sugar goals based on your diabetes care plan. The table to the left lists blood sugar goals that many doctors suggest for people with diabetes. Use the last column to write down your goals.

A1C level	Average blood sugar
6%	135 mg/dL
7%	170 mg/dL
8%	205 mg/dL
9%	240 mg/dL
10%	275 mg/dL
11%	310 mg/dL
12%	345 mg/dL

Adapted from the American Diabetes Association. Standards of medical care in diabetes—2008. *Diabetes Care*. 2008;31(suppl 1):S12-S54.

## Knowing your A1C

In addition to knowing your blood sugar each day, you should also know your A1C. The A1C test measures your average blood sugar over the past 2 to 3 months. It's like a "memory" of your blood sugar levels. It shows how well you're controlling your blood sugar is over time. Your A1C and your blood sugar levels go up and down together. The table to the left shows how they go together.

Lowering your A1C to below 7% reduces your risk of problems from diabetes. Therefore, the A1C goal for most people is less than 7%.

The American Diabetes Association recommends that you get an A1C test:

- At least 2 times a year if your blood sugar is under good control
- 4 times a year if you are not meeting your goals or if your treatment has changed

If you have any questions, be sure to talk to your diabetes care team. They are there to help!

For more information, call the Novo Nordisk Tip Line at 1-800-260-3730, or visit us online at **ChangingDiabetes-us.com**.

Novo Nordisk Inc. grants permission to reproduce this piece for nonprofit educational purposes only on condition that the piece is maintained in its original format and that the copyright notice is displayed. Novo Nordisk Inc. reserves the right to revoke this permission at any time.

Day/ Date	Time	Insulin Dose Type and/or Pills	Blood Sugar Results*						Ketone Test Results	Notes
			Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Bedtime				
Mon			Before Time	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	
			mg/dL							
Tue			Before Time	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	
			mg/dL							
Wed			Before Time	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	
			mg/dL							
Thu			Before Time	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	
			mg/dL							
Fri			Before Time	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	
			mg/dL							
Sat			Before Time	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	
			mg/dL							
Sun			Before Time	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	
			mg/dL							