

## First vs. Second Generation Sulfonylureas

Adapted from How Sweet It Is! Management of Diabetes: Oral Medications

By Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD, MA, BCPS, CPE

SU	Comment
Chlorpropamide	Antabuse reaction, water retention, prolonged hyperglycemia
Acetohexamide	Metabolized to active products which accumulate in patients with renal dysfunction
Tolbutamide	Dosed two to three times daily; not a good choice with noncompliant patients
Tolazamide	Dosed once to twice daily, doesn't have prolonged duration of action, therefore unlikely to cause severe hypoglycemic episodes. Use with caution in patients with $Cl_{cr} < 30$ ml/min since metabolites are mildly active.
Glipizide	Metabolized to inactive products. Intermediate duration of action, dosed QD or BID. May be more effective in patients with postprandial hyperglycemia.
Glyburide	Longer duration of action than glipizide; associated more frequently with severe, prolonged hypoglycemia. May be more useful in patients with fasting hyperglycemia. Use with caution in frail, elderly, or patients predisposed to hypoglycemia.
Glimepiride	Slightly less likely to cause hypoglycemia