USE OF GLUCOSE-LOWERING MEDICATIONS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF TYPE 2 DIABETES

TO AVOID THERAPEUTIC INERTIA REASSESS AND MODIFY TREATMENT REGULARLY (3–6 MONTHS)

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE BEHAVIORS; DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT (DSMES); SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH (SDOH)

Goal: Cardiorenal Risk Reduction in High-Risk Patients with Type 2 Diabetes (in addition to comprehensive CV risk management)*

+ASCVD†

Defined differently across CVOTs but all included individuals with established CVD (e.g., MI, stroke, any revascularization procedure). Variably included: conditions such as transient ischemic attack, unstable angina, amputation, symptomatic or asymptomatic coronary artery disease.

+Indicators of high risk

While definitions vary, most comprise ≥55 years of age with two or more additional risk factors (including obesity, hypertension, smoking, dyslipidemia, or albuminuria)

+ASCVD/Indicators of High Risk

GLP-1 RA# with proven CVD benefit **EITHER/OR** SGLT2i§ with proven CVD benefit

If A1C above target

- For patients on a GLP-1 RA, consider adding SGLT2i with proven CVD benefit or vice versa
- TZD^

+HF

Current or prior symptoms of HF with documented HFrEF or HFpEF

+HF

SGLT2i§ with proven HF benefit in this population

+CKD

eGFR <60 mL/min per 1.73 m^2 OR albuminuria (ACR ≥3.0 mg/mmol [30 mg/g]). These measurements may vary over time; thus, a repeat measure is required to document CKD.

+CKD (on maximally tolerated dose of ACEi/ARB)

PREFERABLY

SGLT2i§ with primary evidence of reducing CKD progression

Use SGLT2i in people with an eGFR ≥20 mL/min per 1.73 m^2; once initiated should be continued until initiation of dialysis or transplantation

OR

GLP-1 RA with proven CVD benefit if SGLT2i not tolerated or contraindicated

If A1C above target, for patients on SGLT2i, consider incorporating a GLP-1 RA or vice versa

If additional cardiorenal risk reduction or glycemic lowering needed

Goal: Achievement and Maintenance of Glycemic and Weight Management Goals

Glycemic Management: Choose approaches that provide the efficacy to achieve goals:

Metformin OR Agent(s) including COMBINATION therapy that provide adequate EFFICACY to achieve and maintain treatment goals

Consider avoidance of hypoglycemia a priority in high-risk individuals

In general, higher efficacy approaches have greater likelihood of achieving glycemic goals

Efficacy for glucose lowering

Very High:
Dulaglutide (high dose), Semaglutide, Tirzepatide

Insulin

Combination Oral, Combination Injectable (GLP-1 RA/Insulin)

High:
GLP-1 RA (not listed above), Metformin, SGLT2i, Sulfonylurea, TZD

Intermediate:
DPP-4i

Achievement and Maintenance of Weight Management Goals:

Set individualized weight management goals

- General lifestyle advice: medical nutrition therapy/eating patterns/physical activity
- Intensive evidence-based structured weight management program
- Consider medication for weight loss
- Consider metabolic surgery

When choosing glucose-lowering therapies:

Consider regimen with high-to-very-high dual glucose and weight efficacy

Efficacy for weight loss

Very High:
Semaglutide, Tirzepatide

High:
Dulaglutide, Liraglutide

Intermediate:
GLP-1 RA (not listed above), SGLT2i

Neutral:
DPP-4i, Metformin

If A1C above target

Identify barriers to goals:

- Consider DSMES referral to support self-efficacy in achievement of goals
- Consider technology (e.g., diagnostic CGM) to identify therapeutic gaps and tailor therapy
- Identify and address SDOH that impact achievement of goals

* In people with HF, CKD, established CVD or multiple risk factors for CVD, the decision to use a GLP-1 RA or SGLT2i with proven benefit should be independent of background use of metformin;† A strong recommendation is warranted for people with CVD and a weaker recommendation for those with indicators of high CV risk. Moreover, a higher absolute risk reduction and thus lower numbers needed to treat are seen at higher levels of baseline risk and should be factored into the shared decision-making process. See text for details; ^ Low-dose TZD may be better tolerated and similarly effective; § For SGLT2i, CV/renal outcomes trials demonstrate their efficacy in reducing the risk of composite MACE, CV death, all-cause mortality, MI, HHF, and renal outcomes in individuals with T2D with established/high risk of CVD; # For GLP-1 RA, CVOTs demonstrate their efficacy in reducing composite MACE, CV death, all-cause mortality, MI, stroke, and renal endpoints in individuals with T2D with established/high risk of CVD.