

# Amaryl (glimepiride) basics

**Lowers blood sugar.** Amaryl (glimepiride) is an effective medicine for lowering blood sugar, but it can cause weight gain.

## What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



\* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Take the medicine 30 minutes before eating, usually before your first big meal of the day.
- Eat regular and well-balanced meals to keep your blood sugar levels normal.
- Avoid drinking alcohol while taking Amaryl (glimepiride).
- Check your blood sugar regularly.
- Amaryl (glimepiride) can cause dizziness so avoid activities that require coordination until you know how your body can handle the medicine.
- Amaryl (glimepiride) might cause weight gain.

## Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Low blood sugar

Amaryl (glimepiride) can drop your blood sugar to dangerously low levels, which can be life-threatening. Signs of low blood sugar include fast heartbeat, sweating, pale skin, shakiness, confusion and irritability. Make sure to carry with you some form of sugar such as hard candies or glucose tablets at all times while you are on this medicine.

### Severe allergic reaction

Amaryl (glimepiride) can cause a severe allergic reaction which include signs like skin rash, hives, face swelling, difficulty breathing, and the feeling of wanting to pass out. Go to the emergency room right away if you can't breathe or feel like you will faint after taking the medicine. If you had these problems before when you took a sulfa-containing medicine, talk to your doctor first before taking Amaryl (glimepiride).

### Breakdown of red blood cells

Amaryl (glimepiride) can rarely cause your red blood cells to break up and die. Red blood cells are responsible for carrying oxygen to your entire body so when they are destroyed you can become weak, tired, dizzy, and your skin can turn pale. Also, if you notice dark-colored urine, increased heart rate, or yellowing of your skin and eyes, talk to your doctor right away.

