Many people take diabetes pills or tablets to help them control their diabetes. Pills for diabetes are not insulin.

Diabetes pills work in a number of ways and in different parts of the body. The drawing (picture) below shows you where and how many commonly used diabetes pills work.*

**LIVER**
- Pioglitizone
- Metformin
  Help to lower the amount of sugar (glucose) made by the liver.

**MUSCLE CELLS**
- Metformin
- Pioglitizone
  Help muscle cells make better use of the body’s insulin.

**LIVER AND PANCREAS**
- Januvia, Onglyza,
- Tradjenta, Nesina
  Help the pancreas produce more insulin and also help lower the amount of sugar made by the liver.

**PANCREAS**
- Glimepiride
- Glyburide
- Glipizide
- Nateglinide
- Repaglinide
  Help the pancreas produce more insulin.

**KIDNEYS**
- Farxiga
- Invokana
  Lower the amount of sugar the kidneys keep in the body.

**INTESTINES**
- Acarbose,
- Glyset
  Slow how the body breaks down some carbohydrates (which helps slow the rise of blood sugar levels).

*Both generic and non-generic (brand name) diabetes tablets are listed. Not all tablets are listed.