Diabetes Stoplight Tool



The following 2-page tool was developed by Sutter Care at Home and was based upon current health literacy best practices and field tested in clinical settings.

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Controlling diabetes at home

	Green zone	Yellow zone	Red zone
	You are in control.	Take action today. Call: Image: Comparison of the second secon	Take action now! Call:
Did I test my blood sugar?	I tested my blood sugar.	I did not or cannot test my blood sugar because I: • Forgot or am out of strips • Am not sure how to do it • Do not feel like I need to	I did not or cannot test my blood sugar and I feel: • Sweaty or shaky • Light-headed • Confused
What is my blood sugar?	My blood sugar is: Between 70-130 (fasting/before a meal) Less than 180 (2 hours after a meal)	 Treat blood sugar if it is: Low (less than): or High (more than): (See back of form for how to treat) Call today if blood sugar is: Still in yellow zone after treatment In yellow zone several times in 1 week 	Call now if blood sugar is: Low (less than): or High (more than): Or if after treatment I <u>still</u> feel: • Sweaty or shaky • Light-headed • Confused
How do my feet look?	I do not have any wounds on my feet.	I have a wound on my foot that is not healing after 1 week.	I have a wound on my foot that is not healing after 2 weeks.
Did I miss any doses of medicine?	I did not miss a dose.	 I missed at least 1 dose in the last 24 hours because I: Am out of medicine Am not sure how to take my medicine Do not feel like I need it 	 I did not take my medicine and I: Need to pee more Feel more thirsty or hungry than usual Have less energy

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Treating my blood sugar

Signs of low blood sugar:

- Feeling sweaty or shaky
- Feeling light-headed or dizzy
- Feeling confused

To treat low blood sugar:

- 1. Do <u>one</u> of these:
 - Eat 4 glucose tablets <u>or</u>
 - Eat 4 teaspoons of sugar or
 - Eat 8 hard candies (such as Life Savers) or
 - Drink 1/2 cup of fruit juice <u>or</u> low fat milk <u>or</u>
 - Drink 1/2 can of regular soda (not diet)
- 2. Wait 15 minutes.
- 3. Retest blood sugar. If still low, treat again.
- 4. Wait 15 minutes.
- 5. Retest blood sugar. If still low, take action and call your health care provider.

Signs of high blood sugar:

- Need to pee more often
- Feel more thirsty or hungry than usual
- Have less energy than usual

To treat high blood sugar:

- Drink some water
- Sit or lie down
- Take a short, easy walk

My plan for controlling diabetes at home

- □ Take my medicine
- Check my blood sugar:
 - Every day and at different times each day
 - More often if I am sick
 - Before driving
- Carry a source of sugar in my purse or wallet
- **Care for my feet and skin**
- Eat healthy meals
- Get exercise each day

Your care team will work with you to set goals so you can stick to your plan.