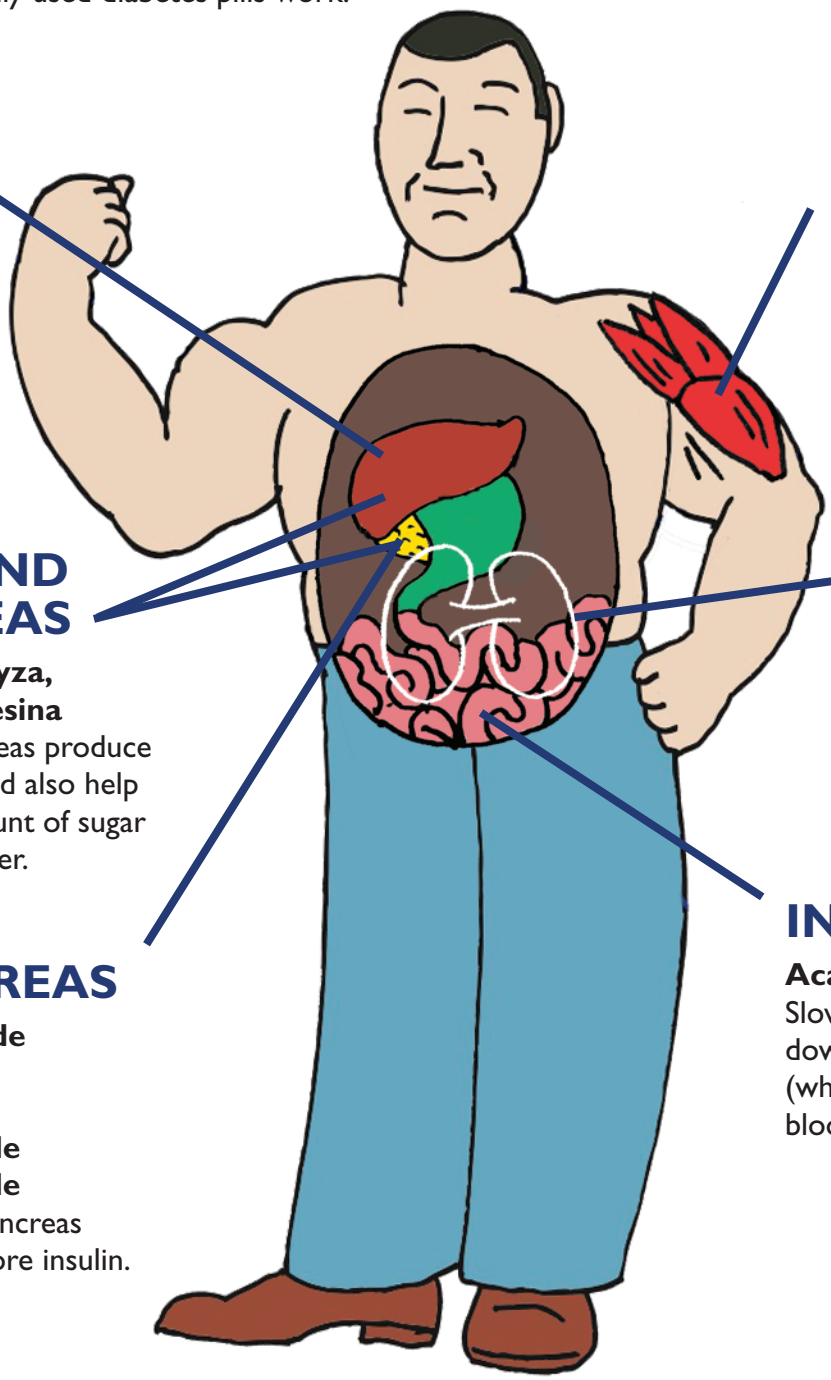
DIABETES PILLS

HOW AND WHERE THEY WORK

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.

KIDNEYS

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

PANCREAS

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

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.

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