



## Diabetes Awareness

November is National Diabetes Awareness Month, a time when communities and health professionals across the country team up to raise awareness about diabetes. Diabetes can lead to damage in the eyes, kidneys, nerves, and heart, and is also linked to certain types of cancer.

## Understanding Diabetes

**Diabetes** refers to a disruption in how the body utilizes insulin, resulting in elevated blood glucose levels. When carbohydrates are consumed, they are broken down into glucose, which is typically used as an energy source for cells or stored for later use. There are two types of diabetes that impact this process differently.

**Type 1 diabetes** (<10% of cases) is a chronic condition wherein the pancreas produces little to no insulin. In such cases, the administration of insulin is necessary to enable the body to use glucose for energy and maintain normal blood glucose levels.

**Type 2 diabetes** (>90% of cases) is a chronic condition characterized by the gradual development of insulin resistance in the body, possibly accompanied by insufficient insulin production. This is managed through lifestyle adjustments to reduce insulin resistance, as well as the use of medications.

**Prediabetes** refers to a state of insulin resistance that has not yet progressed to type 2 diabetes. It is essential to be aware of whether you have any of these conditions to prevent potential complications in the future.

## Acknowledging The Signs & Symptoms

### **Symptoms of high blood sugar:**

- Frequent urination
- Persistent thirst, regardless of fluid intake
- Excessive hunger, even with regular meals
- Severe fatigue
- Blurred vision
- Delayed healing of cuts or bruises
- Unintentional weight loss (specific to type 1 diabetes)

Individuals with early diabetes, often referred to as "prediabetes," may not exhibit any symptoms. It's crucial to understand that 1 in 3 people in the U.S. has prediabetes, and many remain unaware of their condition.

Since elevated blood sugar levels can sometimes go unnoticed, many cases of diabetes or prediabetes remain undiagnosed. It is important to consult your doctor and undergo screening for diabetes and prediabetes.

# SAVE A LIFE

KNOW THE SIGNS

## WARNING SIGNS OF

TYPE 1  
DIABETES

TYPE 1 DIABETES IS COMMONLY  
MISTAKEN FOR  
GROWTH SPURTS  
COLD OR FLU

URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS

HEADACHES  
WEIGHT LOSS  
BLURRY VISION  
EXTREME THIRST  
FREQUENT URINATION  
INCREASED APPETITE  
FRUITY BREATH ODOR  
FATIGUE AND WEEKNESS  
RAPID DEEP BREATHING

IF YOU RECOGNIZE THESE SYMPTOMS,

DON'T WAIT  
ASK YOUR PHYSICIAN ABOUT  
TYPE 1 DIABETES  
TODAY

*Your health is a journey, and small, consistent efforts can make a difference. Prioritize your well-being!*



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