

**SGLT2 INHIBITORS OR
TYPE 2 DIABETES MEDICATIONS:
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THEM**

According to the American Diabetes Association, more than 29 million Americans have some form of diabetes. Of those 29 million persons, 90 to 95 percent have type 2 diabetes.

Type 2 diabetes is the most common form of diabetes. When someone develops this form of diabetes, his or her body is not using insulin properly, a process called insulin resistance. At first, the pancreas makes extra insulin to make up for the misuse. But over time, the pancreas is not able to keep up and cannot make enough insulin to keep the blood glucose at normal levels.

To help control a patient's type 2 diabetes, doctors may prescribe several types of medication. A fairly new class of diabetes drugs is called *sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 (SGLT2) inhibitors*.

SGLT2 Inhibitors

SGLT2 inhibitors are prescription medications that have been approved by the FDA, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The inhibitors are to be used with diet and exercise to lower blood sugar in adults with type 2 diabetes. The blood sugar is lowered by causing the body's kidneys to remove sugar from the body through urine.

Some popular brand names of SGLT2 inhibitors include:

- Invokana (Invokamer)
- Farxiga
- Xigduo
- Jardiance
- Glyxambi

Doctors have discovered that the use of these SGLT2 inhibitors can cause a problem called **ketoacidosis**. Ketoacidosis is the build-up of too much acid or ketones in a person's blood. The elevated levels in the blood can lead to serious—even life-threatening—complications, including:

- Diabetic coma
- Kidney failure
- Heart attack
- Stroke

FDA Warnings About SGLT2 Inhibitors

In May 2015, the FDA issued a safety warning about SGLT2 inhibitors. From March 2013 to May 2015, more than 20 cases of diabetic ketoacidosis in patients who had been using SGLT2 inhibitors were reported. All patients needed visits to a hospital emergency room or required hospitalization for treatment.

The FDA advised that patients should not immediately stop using the SGLT2 inhibitors, but they should consult with their doctors about continuing the usage of them.

Do You Need an Attorney?

If you or someone you know used SGLT2 inhibitors to treat type 2 diabetes and suffered a diabetic coma, kidney failure, heart attack, or stroke, then that person should consider contacting an attorney.

At Hupy and Abraham, S.C., we pride ourselves on being honest and straightforward with our clients and potential clients. It doesn't benefit anyone to pursue litigation when a case isn't strong.

When manufacturers put an inferior product on the market, they should be held responsible for it. And, if that product was not tested adequately, they should also be held responsible. It's also very important to secure evidence that the manufacturers knew about the product's serious risks, but did not share the information with the public or warn consumers.

The single best way to know if you need an attorney is to speak with one. Share the details of your case, bring any evidence you have, and simply tell your story. A lawyer from Hupy and Abraham, S.C. will respond to the sensitive story with the concern and compassion that you are entitled to receive. Our attorneys will examine your possible case, answer your questions, and let you know your legal options.

Getting Compensation for SGLT2 Inhibitors

Why should you file a lawsuit after using SGLT2 inhibitors? A serious diagnosis and medical issue can result in enormous losses, both financial and personal. If another person or a business, such as a drug manufacturer, is responsible for your health condition, then that person or business is also responsible for the costs your health condition incurs.

Specifically, you may be entitled to the following types of damages if you, or a member of your family, has been harmed by SGLT2 inhibitors:

- **Economic damages.** These damages include the actual money lost because of defective products. Economic damages include medical costs, lost wages, lost future income, and lost earning power.
- **Non-economic damages.** A serious medical condition caused by a defective product can greatly affect your life, your abilities, and your happiness. A liable manufacturer may owe you compensation for any pain and suffering, mental anguish, permanent disabilities, loss of companionship, loss of consortium, or diminished quality of life.
- **Punitive damages.** If a company has been grossly negligent or if it is determined that the company has committed an egregious wrong, it may be asked to pay its victims more money as a punishment and as a deterrent. The amount received for punitive damages varies widely.

In short, damages are meant to accomplish two major goals: compensate the victims and their families for what they have lost, and to prevent similar incidents from happening in the future. By filing a lawsuit, you are not only making sure that you receive what you are lawfully owed, you are also making sure that others don't suffer in the way that you have.

What Should You Do If You Have Been Harmed By SGLT2 Inhibitors?

When you suffer an injury in a traffic accident that is someone else's fault, the steps you take to get better and pursue compensation are relatively straightforward. If you believe that you have been harmed by a potentially defective product, the path to justice can be much less clear.

While all harmful products are different, there are a few things that everyone should do if they believe they are the victim of a harmful product:

- **Get the medical assistance that you need.** Nothing is more important than your health. If you believe a product is causing you health problems, illnesses, or adverse events, you should report your symptoms to a medical professional immediately and voice your concern that your health condition may be tied to that product. Not only will getting medical assistance considerably improve your chances of recovery and remission, it will also document your health issues in the event that you would like to file a lawsuit.

- **Don't hesitate to get a second opinion.** We can't state this strongly enough: *your health is the most precious thing that you have*. If your doctor isn't convinced that the product is affecting your health, or if your doctor isn't taking your health concerns seriously, seek a second opinion.
- **Be compliant.** It is difficult to get compensation for illnesses and medical costs if you don't follow treatment plans and doctors' orders. It's also difficult to get well if you aren't listening to your treating medical professionals.
- **Keep notes and records.** Take notes when you visit the doctor. Get copies of your medical records. Keep a diary of symptoms, illnesses, and health observations. Keep track of medical expenses and other monetary losses related to your harmful product. All of the information you collect could be important to your possible lawsuit.
- **Talk to an attorney—or two—about your case.** Far too many harmful product victims second-guess themselves or delay telling their stories. They do not realize that many medical attorneys offer free, private consultations, or that a knowledgeable lawyer can analyze the evidence in their case and explain their legal options.

Hiring An Attorney? Ten Questions to Ask During Your Consultation

Even if you have decided that you want to learn more about your possible case, it can be difficult to know whom to turn to, whom to trust, and who will be your optimal partner and advocate. It is important to understand that not all attorneys have specific experience with regard to products like SGLT2 inhibitors. In addition, it is important to understand that different attorneys offer different experiences—and at different costs. Below, we've listed ten questions that you should ask potential lawyers before agreeing to work with them on your case.

1. Do you have experience handling defective product cases, especially products like SGLT2 inhibitors?
2. How do you conduct medical research related to cases like mine?
3. Do you utilize medical experts? If so, what are their credentials?
4. What do you believe are the most important aspects of a defective product lawsuit?
5. Can you share past defective product case results with me?

6. What are the strengths and weaknesses of my case?
7. What are my legal rights and what are my options for action?
8. Who in your office will handle my case? How will I contact you during my case?
9. What are your feelings on settling as opposed to going to court?
10. How do you bill your clients? What can I expect to pay if I win? What can I expect to pay if I lose?

Don't forget: experience and expertise aren't the only things that matter. In some cases, a lawyer's personality simply won't complement yours or you may simply not work well with certain attorneys. If you don't feel comfortable with the attorney you are speaking with, or if you don't feel confident about partnering with him or her, consider talking to someone else before making your decision.

How Hupy and Abraham, S.C., Can Help

At Hupy and Abraham, S.C., we are dedicated to helping those who have been harmed by defective products—and we are committed to seeking justice for these victims and their families. We offer confidential, complimentary case evaluations to anyone who has been affected by a dangerous product. Take the first step by contacting us today and we will take care of the rest.

There are five ways of contacting us today:

- Call us toll-free at 1-800-800-5678.
- Visit our website at www.hupy.com.
- Fill out the electronic quick-contact form located on our website.
- Chat in real time with a real person by using the live chat option on our website.
- Stop by one of our offices, with 11 different locations in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa.

About Hupy and Abraham, S.C.

Founded in 1969 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, personal injury law firm Hupy and Abraham, S.C. has a proven record of success with large settlements in serious cases, collecting \$100s of millions for 1,000s of satisfied clients. The firm has a long-established reputation of providing sound legal representation to accident victims, securing fair compensation for its clients, and giving back to the community.

The law firm, which has offices located in Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin, handles personal injury cases including car accidents, motorcycle accidents, wrongful death, and pharmaceutical and medical device class actions.

The firm's sixteen experienced attorneys are committed to going above and beyond the call of duty for their clients by tirelessly representing them to the best of their ability while being involved in the local community—from raising funds for local charities to participating in safety and accident prevention initiatives. In the past three years, the firm donated more than \$500,000 to more than 100 worthwhile causes.

Hupy and Abraham, S.C. has received top ratings from a number of national professional organizations for many years and was voted Best Personal Injury Lawyers in 2014, 2013, 2012 and 2011 and voted Best Personal Injury Law Firm by voters in 2014, 2013 and 2012 in another popular poll. In 2015, the firm was named a Webby Award Honoree in the Best Law Website category.

To learn more about Hupy and Abraham, S.C., visit their website at www.hupy.com.