

Name:  
Name of Doctor/Nurse:

Date:

# Diabetes and bad cholesterol

## Information prescription

Your last cholesterol reading is: Total  HDL

People with diabetes and high levels of bad cholesterol are at higher risk of having a heart attack or stroke. By lowering your bad cholesterol, you can dramatically reduce your risk.

### What is cholesterol?

Cholesterol is a type of fat in the blood. Sometimes it is called lipids. There is good cholesterol and bad cholesterol. HDL (high-density lipoprotein) is good cholesterol which helps protect you from heart disease. Both triglycerides and LDL (low-density lipoprotein) are bad for you.

Most people need a medication to lower their bad cholesterol – the most common is a statin. These have been proven to lower cholesterol. **Most people don't experience side effects.** If you do it's important to speak to your doctor so they can find a medication that suits you.

### Blood vessel



Normal



Furred up  
with cholesterol

### When is cholesterol a problem?

Too much bad cholesterol in the blood causes fatty material to build up in the blood vessels supplying the brain and heart, making them narrower. This can lead to a blockage in blood vessels, which can cause a heart attack or stroke.

### How can I lower my cholesterol?

You can get support to make changes that lower your risk of having a heart attack or stroke. The next column explains how.

### Get support to manage your weight

- If you are living with obesity or overweight, ask about a referral to your local weight management groups.

### Eat a healthy balanced diet

- Eat less fatty foods, processed meats, pastries and cakes.
- Include wholegrains, such as oats or barley, and pulses.
- Plain nuts or unsweetened yogurt are healthy snack options.
- Aim for at least two portions of oily fish a week.
- Eat plenty of vegetables and fruit – aim for at least five portions a day.
- Replace butter, lard and ghee with vegetable oils and spreads.

### Get more active

- Aim for at least 150 minutes a week of moderate intensity activity. This could be done by doing at least 30 minutes of activity five times a week. Add some activity that strengthens your muscles, like gardening or yoga, twice a week.

### Stop smoking

- For help giving up ask for your free NHS local Stop Smoking Service.

### Agreed action plan

**My personal goal is:**

**To be achieved when:**

**The two steps that I will take to achieve this are:**

(Discuss and agree with your doctor or nurse. Think about what, where, when and how?)

1

2

For information or support, call Diabetes UK Helpline: **0345 123 2399\*** Monday to Friday, 9am-6pm, or go to **[www.diabetes.org.uk/info-p](http://www.diabetes.org.uk/info-p)**