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## Medical and Lay Media Fact Sheet

## **Kidney Fact Sheet**

The role of the kidney in the reabsorption of glucose	The kidneys filter, reabsorb, and excrete water, sodium, electrolytes, and other substances to control the composition of essential body fluids. In addition, they play an
	important role in the handling of blood glucose—with renal glucose reabsorption from the
	urine being the primary mechanism by which filtered glucose is actively returned to the
	blood. <sup>2,3</sup> In healthy individuals, the kidney filters ~180 grams of glucose each day, with
	virtually all glucose being reabsorbed back into the body's circulation. <sup>4,5</sup> In the glomerulus,
	glucose is filtered out of the blood. It then travels into the proximal tubule <sup>4</sup> , where sodium-
	glucose cotransporters (SGLTs)—mainly SGLT2—transport glucose into the cells of the
	proximal tubule, followed by transport back into the blood via facilitative glucose
	transporters. 4 SGLT2 is the major sodium-glucose transporter in the kidney and is
	responsible for the majority of total renal glucose reabsorption.4
The impact of type 2 diabetes on the kidneys	Patients with type 2 diabetes have elevated blood glucose levels (hyperglycaemia). Even in the presence of hyperglycaemia, SGLT2 continues to reabsorb excess glucose and its
	associated calories in the kidney. This reabsorption continues independently of plasma
	insulin levels and further exacerbates hyperglycaemia.5-7
How does SGLT2 inhibition work?	SGLT2 inhibition causes less glucose with its associated calories to be reabsorbed back
	into the bloodstream. The amount of glucose removed depends on blood glucose
	concentration and glomerular filtration rate.8
Dapagliflozin — The first and only SGLT2 inhibitor	Dapagliflozin is the first and only SGLT2 inhibitor approved for the treatment of type 2

diabetes. SGLT2, the target of dapagliflozin, is selectively expressed in the kidney.8

## References

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