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Health and wellness tips for your work, home, and life—brought to you by the insurance and healthcare specialists at MDW Insurance Group.

# Pre-Diabetes

## *Don't let it lead to type 2*

Before being diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, most people develop “pre-diabetes”, a serious medical condition in which blood glucose levels are higher than normal.

People with pre-diabetes often have no signs or symptoms, or don't recognize them because they develop slowly over a period of time.

### **Risk Factors**

*If you are overweight and age 45 or older* – You should be checked for pre-diabetes during your next routine medical office visit.

*If your weight is normal and you are over age 45* – You should ask your doctor during a routine office visit if testing is appropriate.

*If you are under age 45 and overweight* – Your doctor should recommend testing if you have any other risk factors for diabetes, including:

- High blood pressure
- Low HDL cholesterol and high triglycerides
- Family history of diabetes
- History of gestational diabetes or delivering a baby weighing 9 pounds or more

- You belong to an ethnic or minority group at high risk for diabetes, including: African-Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, or Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders.

### **Screening and Diagnosis**

Doctors often refer to pre-diabetes as Impaired Glucose Tolerance or Impaired Fasting Glucose (IGT/IFG). Screening guidelines for pre- and type 2 diabetes are as follows:

- Fasting blood glucose of 100 mg/dl or lower is considered normal.
- Fasting blood glucose elevated to 100 - 125 mg/dl indicates pre-diabetes.
- Fasting blood glucose elevated to 126 mg/dl or higher indicates diabetes.

If your blood glucose levels are in the normal range, follow-up tests should occur every three years. If your results indicate pre-diabetes, you should be re-tested every one to two years after your

diagnosis.

### **Prevention and Treatment**

If diagnosed with pre-diabetes, you can and should do something about it. Studies show that people with this condition can prevent or delay the development of type 2 diabetes through lifestyle changes, including:

- Moderate weight loss (reducing total body weight by 5 to 10%)
- Regular exercise (30 minutes a day, 5 days a week)

For some people with pre-diabetes, early enough intervention can actually “turn back the clock” and return elevated blood glucose levels to the normal range.



## **What Pre-Diabetes Really Means...**

- You are more likely to develop type 2 diabetes
- You may already be experiencing adverse health effects
- You are at an 50% increased risk for cardiovascular disease