Hemoglobin A1C

What is hemoglobin A1C?

The hemoglobin A1C test tells the average blood sugar level over the last 3 months. It also relates to your risk of diabetes-related complications. A1C goals depend on many factors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>A1C Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A person without diabetes</td>
<td>A1C at or below 5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prediabetes</td>
<td>A1C 5.7 to 6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>A1C at or above 6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy level for a person with</td>
<td>A1C at or below 7.0%,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diabetes</td>
<td>as suggested by your</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>doctor</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(American Diabetes Association Guidelines)

How can my A1C be lowered to a healthy level?

- Eat healthy. Eat the right amount of carbohydrates for you.
- Be active 5 – 6 days a week for 30 minutes a day.
- If you are overweight, lose weight.
- Monitor your blood glucose level.
- Take medication as prescribed by your doctor.

Your diabetes team can help you balance your diet, encourage exercise, and explain medications to meet your A1C and diabetes goals.

My last A1C result was ________% done on ________ (date).
My goal A1C is ________%.
My next A1C test is due on ________ (date).

Visit our website for more information about support groups, clinical trials and lifestyle information.
NOTE: This information is provided to you as an educational service of National Jewish Health. It is not meant to be a substitute for consulting with your own physician.

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