

# What is diabetes?

Diabetes is a condition where your body cannot manage sugar properly, resulting in too much sugar in your blood.

# Diabetes is a common and serious condition in Singapore!



**1 in 3** Singaporeans is at risk of developing diabetes



**Close to 1 in 10** Singaporeans has diabetes



**2 in 3** individuals with newly diagnosed kidney failure have diabetes



**1 in 3** individuals diagnosed with diabetes continues to have high blood sugar levels



**1 in 3** individuals with diabetes does not know he or she has it



**1 in 3** individuals with diabetes has eye disease

Every day, about 4 individuals with diabetes undergo amputations due to complications

## **Diabetes can cause complications for your body**



## **Diabetes can cause complications for your body**

- High blood sugar, high blood pressure and high blood cholesterol will **damage blood vessels**
- You may not know of the damage until you screen for these complications



#### Small blood vessel (microvascular) damage

- Nerve damage (neuropathy)
  - ⊾ Loss of feeling in the feet
  - └ Increased risk of foot ulcers and infections
- Eye disease (retinopathy)
- Reduced kidney function (nephropathy)

#### Large blood vessel (macrovascular) damage

- Stroke (cerebrovascular disease)
- Heart disease (cardiovascular disease)
- Circulatory problems (peripheral vascular disease)

## **Symptoms**

It can be difficult to distinguish Type 1 from Type 2 diabetes. They share many similar symptoms, and the differences are slight.

## Symptoms that may be common to both\*

- Need to urinate often (especially at night)
- Feels thirsty often
- Losing weight without trying
- Often hungry
- Blurred vision
- Numbness or tingling in hands/feet

- Gets tired easily, or lacks energy
- Dry skin
- Sores/wounds that take a long time to heal
- Prone to infections (commonly involving skin, urine or lungs)

\*May not be experienced by all

### How Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes present

## **Type 1 diabetes**

#### Fast onset, often over a few days.

When symptoms are ignored, it can lead to serious complications such as Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA), when acids known as ketones build up in the bloodstream.

### **Type 2 diabetes**

May not have obvious symptoms or **the symptoms can be easily missed.** If ignored, they can lead to serious complications such as Hyperosmolar Hyperglycaemic Syndrome (HHS), when blood sugar is dangerously high and the body becomes severely dehydrated.