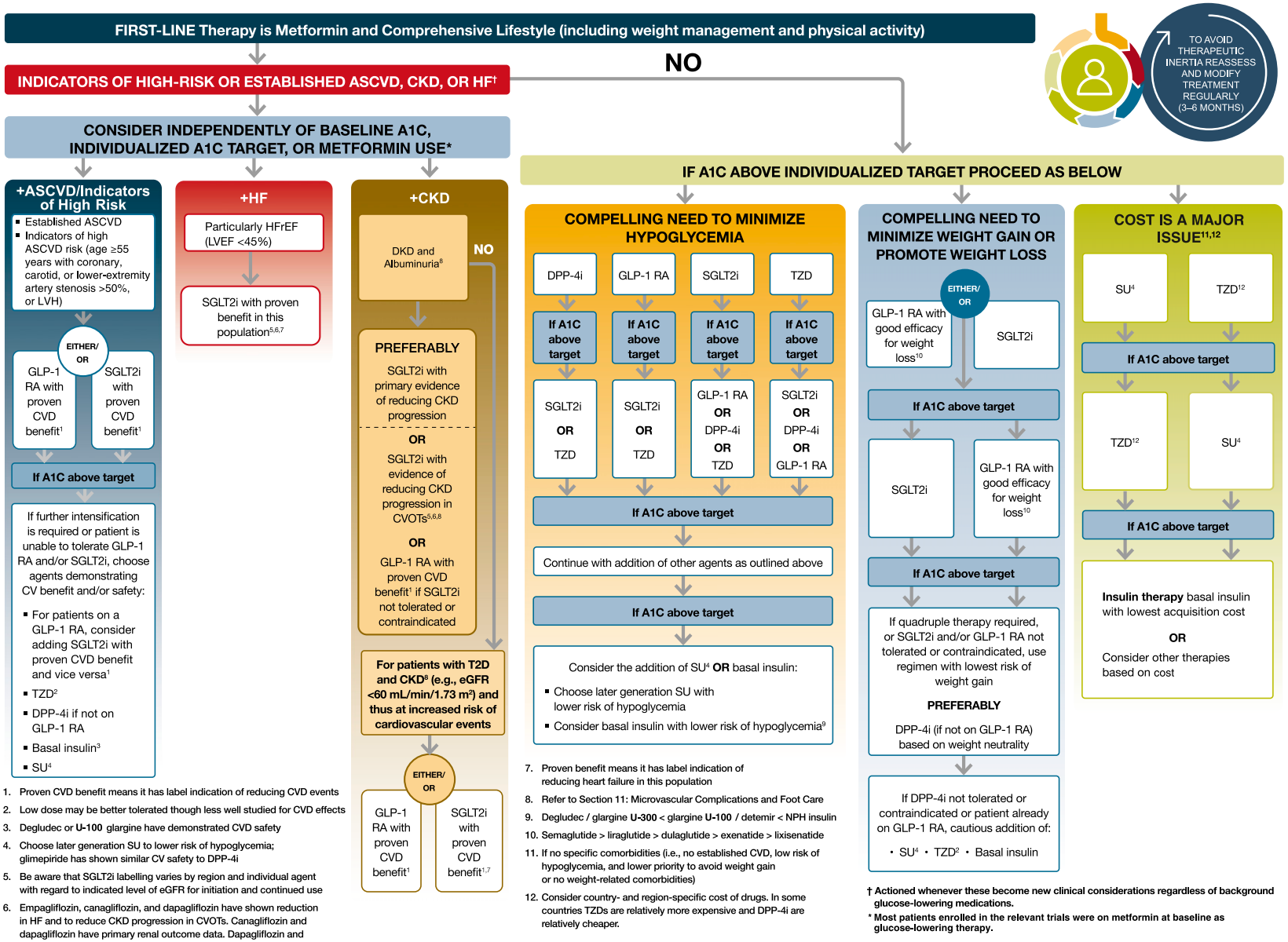
Table 9.1—Drug-specific and patient factors to consider when selecting antihyperglycemic treatment in adults with type 2 diabetes

	Efficacy	Hypoglycemia	Weight change	CV effects		Cost	Oral/SQ	Renal effects		Additional considerations
				ASCVD	HF			Progression of DKD	Dosing/use considerations*	
Metformin	High	No	Neutral (potential for modest loss)	Potential benefit	Neutral	Low	Oral	Neutral	▪ Contraindicated with eGFR <30 mL/min/1.73 m^2	▪ Gastrointestinal side effects common (diarrhea, nausea) ▪ Potential for B12 deficiency
SGLT-2 inhibitors	Intermediate	No	Loss	Benefit: empagliflozin†, canagliflozin	Benefit: empagliflozin†, canagliflozin, dapagliflozin‡	High	Oral	Benefit: canagliflozin§, empagliflozin, dapagliflozin	▪ Renal dose adjustment required (canagliflozin, dapagliflozin, empagliflozin, ertugliflozin)	▪ Should be discontinued before any scheduled surgery to avoid potential risk for DKA ▪ DKA risk (all agents, rare in T2D) ▪ Risk of bone fractures (canagliflozin) ▪ Genitourinary infections ▪ Risk of volume depletion, hypotension ▪ ↑LDL cholesterol ▪ Risk of Fournier's gangrene
GLP-1 RAs	High	No	Loss	Neutral: exenatide once weekly, lixisenatide Benefit: dulaglutide†, liraglutide†, semaglutide†	Neutral	High	SQ; oral (semaglutide)	Benefit on renal end points in CVOTs, driven by albuminuria outcomes: liraglutide, semaglutide, dulaglutide	▪ Exenatide, lixisenatide: avoid for eGFR <30 mL/min/1.73 m^2 ▪ No dose adjustment for dulaglutide, liraglutide, semaglutide ▪ Caution when initiating or increasing dose due to potential risk of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or dehydration. Monitor renal function in patients reporting severe adverse GI reactions when initiating or increasing dose of therapy.	▪ **FDA Black Box:** Risk of thyroid C-cell tumors in rodents; human relevance not determined **(liraglutide, albiglutide, dulaglutide, exenatide extended release, semaglutide)** ▪ GI side effects common (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea) ▪ Injection site reactions ▪ Pancreatitis has been reported in clinical trials but causality has not been established. Discontinue if pancreatitis is suspected.
DPP-4 inhibitors	Intermediate	No	Neutral	Neutral	Potential risk: saxagliptin	High	Oral	Neutral	▪ Renal dose adjustment required (sitagliptin, saxagliptin, alogliptin); can be used in renal impairment ▪ No dose adjustment required for linagliptin	▪ Pancreatitis has been reported in clinical trials but causality has not been established. Discontinue if pancreatitis is suspected. ▪ Joint pain
Thiazolidinediones	High	No	Gain	Potential benefit: pioglitazone	Increased risk	Low	Oral	Neutral	▪ No dose adjustment required ▪ Generally not recommended in renal impairment due to potential for fluid retention	▪ **FDA Black Box:** Congestive heart failure **(pioglitazone, rosiglitazone)** ▪ Fluid retention (edema; heart failure) ▪ Benefit in NASH ▪ Risk of bone fractures ▪ Bladder cancer (pioglitazone) ▪ ↑LDL cholesterol (rosiglitazone)
Sulfonylureas (2nd generation)	High	Yes	Gain	Neutral	Neutral	Low	Oral	Neutral	▪ Glyburide: not recommended ▪ Glipizide and glimepiride: initiate conservatively to avoid hypoglycemia	▪ FDA Special Warning on increased risk of cardiovascular mortality based on studies of an older sulfonylurea (tolbutamide)
Insulin Human insulin	Highest	Yes	Gain	Neutral	Neutral	Low (SQ)	SQ; inhaled	Neutral	▪ Lower insulin doses required with a decrease in eGFR; titrate per clinical response	▪ Injection site reactions ▪ Higher risk of hypoglycemia with human insulin (NPH or premixed formulations) vs. analogs
Insulin Analogs						High	SQ			

ASCVD, atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease; CV, cardiovascular; CVOT, cardiovascular outcomes trial; DPP-4, dipeptidyl peptidase 4; DKA, diabetic ketoacidosis; DKD, diabetic kidney disease; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; GI, gastrointestinal; GLP-1 RAs, glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor agonists; HF, heart failure; NASH, nonalcoholic steatohepatitis; SGLT2, sodium–glucose cotransporter 2; SQ, subcutaneous; T2D, type 2 diabetes. *For agent-specific dosing recommendations, please refer to the manufacturers' prescribing information. †FDA-approved for cardiovascular disease benefit. ‡FDA-approved for heart failure indication. §FDA-approved for chronic kidney disease indication.



1. Proven CVD benefit means it has label indication of reducing CVD events
2. Low dose may be better tolerated though less well studied for CVD effects
3. Degludec or **U-100** glargine have demonstrated CVD safety
4. Choose later generation SU to lower risk of hypoglycemia; glimepiride has shown similar CV safety to DPP-4i
5. Be aware that SGLT2i labelling varies by region and individual agent with regard to indicated level of eGFR for initiation and continued use
6. Empagliflozin, canagliflozin, and dapagliflozin have shown reduction in HF and to reduce CKD progression in CVOTs. Canagliflozin and dapagliflozin have primary renal outcome data. Dapagliflozin and empagliflozin have primary heart failure outcome data.
7. Proven benefit means it has label indication of reducing heart failure in this population
8. Refer to Section 11: Microvascular Complications and Foot Care
9. Degludec / glargine **U-300** < glargine **U-100** / detemir < NPH insulin
10. Semaglutide > liraglutide > dulaglutide > exenatide > lixisenatide
11. If no specific comorbidities (i.e., no established CVD, low risk of hypoglycemia, and lower priority to avoid weight gain or no weight-related comorbidities)
12. Consider country- and region-specific cost of drugs. In some countries TZDs are relatively more expensive and DPP-4i are relatively cheaper.

† Actioned whenever these become new clinical considerations regardless of background glucose-lowering medications.

*** Most patients enrolled in the relevant trials were on metformin at baseline as glucose-lowering therapy.**

Figure 9.1—Glucose-lowering medication in type 2 diabetes: 2021 ADA Professional Practice Committee (PPC) adaptation of Davies et al. (35) and Buse et al. (36). For appropriate context, see **Fig. 4.1**. The 2021 ADA PPC adaptation of the **Fig. 9.1** "Indicators of high-risk or established ASCVD, CKD, or HF" pathway has been adapted based on trial populations studied. ASCVD, atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease; CKD, chronic kidney disease; CVD, cardiovascular disease; CVOTs, cardiovascular outcomes trials; DPP-4i, dipeptidyl peptidase 4 inhibitor; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; GLP-1 RA, glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor agonist; HF, heart failure; HFrEF, heart failure with reduced ejection fraction; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; LVH, left ventricular hypertrophy; SGLT2i, sodium–glucose cotransporter 2 inhibitor; SU, sulfonylurea; T2D, type 2 diabetes; TZD, thiazolidinedione.