

# DRUG SAFETY NOTICE

## Potential for inappropriate dosing of insulin when switching insulin degludec (Tresiba®) products

### PROBLEM

- A [Medicine Supply Notification](#) issued on 24 May 2023, detailed a shortage of Tresiba® (insulin degludec) FlexTouch® **100units/mL** solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens.
- Some patients may have been switched to Tresiba® (insulin degludec) FlexTouch® **200units/mL** solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens.
- A small number of patients have been incorrectly advised to administer half the number of units.

### ADVICE / ALTERNATIVE

- Tresiba® FlexTouch® devices dial up in unit increments rather than volume.

### ACTIONS

SWB does not stock Tresiba® (insulin degludec) FlexTouch® 200units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens however some patients may have been switched to this product by their GP or Diabetes team

- Patients who have been switched to Tresiba® (insulin degludec) FlexTouch® **200units/mL** solution for injection 3mL pre-filled pen MUST be made aware that Tresiba® FlexTouch® pen delivery devices,
  - **dial up in unit increments rather than volume.**
  - **no dose change is necessary.**
- Avoid initiating patients on Tresiba® (insulin degludec) FlexTouch® **200units/mL** pre-filled pens as these are not able to support increased demand while the **100units/mL** solution for injection 3mL pre-filled pens are out of stock.
- Tresiba® penfill cartridges can be considered as an alternative taking into account:
  - Patient dexterity and ability to use the device correctly and:
  - The appropriate delivery system and needles are available and provided to the patient i.e., the non-disposable NovoPen 6 which will have 1 unit increments similar to the disposable FlexTouch pens.
- Patients are counselled on the change in device and provided with training on their use and potential need for closer blood glucose monitoring.

- If changing to Tresiba 100units/ml Penfill® cartridges is inappropriate seek advice from the specialist diabetes team on use of an alternative insulin
- All clinicians to be aware of the above information seeking advice from the diabetes team as required.
- Ensure all patients prescribed the penfill cartridges have the NovoPen 6 delivery system and are counselled and trained to use the device appropriately. The NovoPen 6 delivery system is available from the Trust diabetes team.

### **Key Documents**

- SWB Safety Notice - [Tresiba Flextouch 100Unit FlexTouch Pen 05-0723](#)
- National Patient Safety Alert - [NatPSA 2023 016 DHSC](#)
- [Tresiba® \(insulin degludec\) SmPC](#)
- [BNF insulin degludec](#)
- [NICE guidance: Type 1 diabetes in adults \(insulin therapy\)](#)
- [NovoPen® 6 and NovoPen Echo® Plus resources](#)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR WARD BASED PHARMACY TEAM  
OR  
THE PHARMACY DEPARTEMENT (CITY ext.5263; SANDWELL ext.3783).  
OUT OF HOURS CONTACT THE ON-CALL PHARAMCIST**

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