

# DRUG SAFETY NOTICE

## Supply Shortage

### DRUG NAME/STRENGTH/FORM:

Humalog (insulin lispro) 100units/ml solution for injection 10ml vials

### PROBLEM

Humalog (insulin lispro) 100units/ml solution for injection 10ml vials will be out of stock from early June 2024 until early July 2024.

### ACTIONS

Prescribers should:

- Not initiate patients on Humalog vials during this time;

Where patients are insulin pump users and have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply date, prescribers should:

- Consider prescribing either:
  - NovoRapid 10ml vials for children and young people in paediatric care and women who are pregnant or in the first 12-months following pregnancy; or
  - Trurapi or NovoRapid (insulin aspart) vials for adults (including young people under the care of adult diabetes services):

after discussion with the patient, ensuring that appropriate education and training is provided (see Supporting Information); and

- Ensure that all insulin pump users have a care plan that clearly documents a back-up Multiple Daily Insulin (MDI) regimen in the event of pump failure. The back-up insulin regimen, whether by prefilled insulin pens, or cartridges with pen device, should remain available on repeat prescription at all times so that the patient can request when needed. All insulin pump users should ensure they have back-up insulin pens/cartridges/needles available, and within the expiry date.

Where an individual is administering insulin from a vial with an insulin syringe, prescribers should:

- Consider prescribing Humalog cartridges or Humalog KwikPens/Junior KwikPens where appropriate which can support the market during this time, considering the patient's manual dexterity, vision, ability to use the new device correctly and whether support is required with administering the dose; and
- Ensure that all patients initiated on a new device are counselled on the change in device, provided with appropriate reusable pens and/or needles and provided with training on their use, including signposting to training videos (see Supporting Information), as well as potential need for closer monitoring of blood glucose levels.

If the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialist diabetes team on management options.

Pharmacy teams should:

- Ensure that all patients initiated on a new device are counselled on the change in device, provided with training on their use, including signposting to training videos, and advised closer monitoring of blood glucose levels may be required (see Supporting Information).

## ALTERNATIVES

- NovoRapid and Trurapi (insulin aspart) 100units/ml 10ml vials remain available.
- Lyumjev (insulin lispro) 100units/ml 10ml vials is formulary and may be available, however cannot support an increase in demand.
- Admelog (insulin lispro) 100units/ml 10ml vials may be available.
- Fiasp (insulin aspart) 100units/ml 10ml vials is formulary and may be available, however cannot support an increase in demand.
- Humalog 100units/ml 3ml cartridges and Humalog KwikPen and Junior KwikPen 100 units/ml 3ml pre-filled pens remain available and can support increased demand.

## Supporting Information

Prescriptions for insulin vials are likely to have been initiated in specialist services. Where clinicians in primary care have any concern about making changes to the prescription or issuing an alternative, they should seek advice from the specialist diabetes team.

Extracting insulin from prefilled pens and cartridges is considered a NEVER event and should not occur in clinical practice. Extracting insulin from prefilled pens and cartridges carries a high-risk of insulin administration errors, and in particular, accidental insulin overdose. The risk of an insulin administration error, and the consequences thereof, have the potential for high risk of harm and catastrophic events.

For patients using insulin pumps, Trurapi and NovoRapid (insulin aspart) vials are considered like-for-like replacements for Humalog (insulin lispro) vials. There is no need to alter the insulin infusion rate or bolus insulin doses. As a precaution, the patient should be advised to monitor their glucose levels more closely initially. In the event of concerns with new glucose excursions (high or low glucose readings) the patient should be advised to speak to/seek advice from their specialist diabetes team.

## Counselling points

Patients switched to Humalog KwikPens or Humalog Junior KwikPens will require appropriate education and training for administration technique. Patients should also be counselled on how to administer the correct dose. The user manual for Humalog KwikPens can aid the education and training process.

Patients who switch to the Humalog 3ml cartridges, will require HumaPen SAVVIO medical device, to aid administration, which can be prescribed on an FP10. Patients will require appropriate education and training for administration technique and correct dosing. The instructions for use for the HumaPen SAVVIO can aid the education and training process.

Very occasionally an individual may have a recorded allergy to a specific insulin preparation. Where this arises, advice should be sought from the specialist diabetes team.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR WARD BASED PHARMACY TEAM  
OR  
THE PHARMACY DEPARTMENT (CITY ext.5263; SANDWELL ext.3783).**

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