





## NOVO NORDISK INSULIN DISCONTINUATION GUIDANCE

Novo Nordisk Ltd has announced the discontinuation of the following insulin presentations. Below is a summary and guidance notes for clinicians on the alternative insulin options. This guidance is only applicable to adult patients and no children should be swapped without prior advice from the paediatric diabetes team. Affected patients are to be reviewed by the clinical teams currently responsible for diabetes management i.e. Primary Care or Specialist Diabetes Team.

Following insulin switch, advise additional blood glucose monitoring within the next few weeks as required.  
Patients may temporarily require additional quantities of glucose testing strips issued.  
Re-check HbA1c within 3-6 months and seek specialist advice if deterioration in diabetic control has been identified.

DISCONTINUED:	WHEN?	ALTERNATIVE OPTION:	Estimated number of local patients affected:	MSN note/ further information:
<b>Novorapid</b> (insulin aspart) <b>FlexTouch</b> pre-filled pen only  <b>AMB 2</b>	March 2025, stock is anticipated to be exhausted by March 2025.	<p>1st line choice:  <b>Trurapi Solostar</b> (rapid acting biosimilar insulin aspart)   <b>AMB 3</b></p> <p>Dose regimen and dose – like for like.            Local <a href="#">guidance for switching insulin originator products to biosimilar insulins in adults with Type 2 diabetes in Primary Care</a>.            Manufacturer can support a full increase in demand.</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> line choices:            Ensure sufficient dexterity to handle Penfills and the re-usable pen device, or FlexPen.            Manufacturer can support a full increase in demand.  <b>Novorapid Penfill</b>   <b>AMB 2</b></p> <p>Prescribe with a compatible injection device i.e.:            - NovoPen 6            - NovoPen Echo Plus</p> <p><b>Novorapid FlexPen</b>   <b>AMB 2</b></p> <p>If none of the above insulins are suitable, seek advice from the Specialist Diabetes Team.</p>	Type 1 DM: 95 Type 2 DM: 115	FlexTouch device comparison to FlexPen and Solostar – see <a href="#">Appendix 1</a>  <a href="#">Medicines Supply Notification</a> from NHS England

<b>Insulatard</b> (isophane human) <b>Penfill</b> only <b>GREEN</b>	<p>March 2025, stock is anticipated to be exhausted by June 2025.</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> line choice:  <b>Humulin I KwikPen</b> (isophane human) 100units/ml suspension for injection 3ml pre-filled pens.  <b>GREEN</b>  Dose regimen and dose – like for like.  Manufacturer can support a full increase in demand from April 2025.</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> line choice:  Humulin I (isophane human) 100units/ml suspension for injection 3ml Penfills/pre-filled cartridges – but manufacturer <b>unable to support an increase in demand</b>.  Prescribe with a compatible injection device i.e.:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Humapen Savvio</li> <li>- Autopen Classic</li> </ul> </p>	<p>Type 1 DM: 60  Type 2 DM: 60</p>	<p><a href="#">Notification</a> from Community Pharmacy England</p>
<b>Levemir</b> (insulin detemir) – <b>all presentations</b> i.e. FlexPen, Penfill <b>AMB 2</b>	<p>December 2026</p>	<p><b>Current patients <u>not</u> to be switched</b>, unless immediate need if supply not available. <b>Awaiting release of national advice on alternatives.</b></p> <p><u>No new initiations</u> are recommended for any patients.  To preserve ongoing supply, <u>no multiple prescriptions</u> are to be issued for individuals.</p> <p>Other long acting insulin analogues  <b>AMB 3</b> :  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Semglee (glargine biosimilar) - the most cost-effective</li> <li>- Abasaglar (glargine biosimilar),</li> <li>- Lantus (glargine).</li> </ul> Glargine does not have the same action profile as Levemir and is only licensed to be given once daily. Therefore, new insulin regimen will be required when switching. Suggested starting dose for glargine insulin is 90% of the total daily dose of Levemir. Advise strict blood glucose monitoring for at least 3 days and regular reviews, until glycaemic control is acceptable.</p>	<p>Type 1 DM: 660  Type 2 DM: 360</p>	<p><a href="#">Medicines Supply Notification</a> from NHS England</p> <p>Awaiting release of national advice on switching to alternatives.</p>

## Appendix 1

What is the difference between FlexTouch, FlexPen, and SoloStar?

Insulin	NovoRapid FlexTouch to be discontinued in March 2025	Trurapi Solostar (biosimilar)	NovoRapid FlexPen to remain available
Local Traffic Light classification:	AMBER 2	AMBER 3	AMBER 2
Dose increments:	1 unit	1 unit	1 unit
Total capacity:	300 units	300 units	300 units
Dose delivery mechanism:	Push button with spring loaded delivery	Twist out dial	Twist out dial
Manual/dexterity force required for dose administration:	No or very minimal force required to push the dial button.	Lower force required for administration than FlexPen (shorter dial stroke) – may be appropriate for some with dexterity issues. ( <a href="#">Injection Force of SoloSTAR® Compared with Other Disposable Insulin Pen Devices at Constant Volume Flow Rates - PMC (nih.gov)</a> )	Some force required to administer.
Max single dose:	80 units	80 units	60 units
Audible click on dose delivery:	Yes	No	No
Dose view window:	Larger and clearer with white background.	Large and clear with white background.	Smaller with black background.