

4 November 2022

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

NovoRapid FlexPen® (Insulin aspart) 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens

Priority: Level 3

Valid until: 21 November 2022

Issue

1. NovoRapid FlexPen® is out of stock until the week commencing 21st November 2022.

Summary

- NovoRapid Penfill® (Insulin aspart) 100units/ml cartridges remain available and can support a full uplift in demand.
- Trurapi Solostar® (Insulin aspart [biosimilar]) 100units/ml pens remain available and can only support a partial uplift in demand.
- NovoRapid FlexTouch® (Insulin aspart) 100units/ml pens remain available but cannot support any uplift in demand.

Advice and Actions

2. Prescribers should:

- not initiate new patients on NovoRapid FlexPen® during this time;

3. Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply date; prescribers should:

- consider prescribing NovoRapid Penfill® cartridges which are able to support the market during this time, taking into account the patient's manual dexterity and ability to use the new device correctly;
- when prescribing NovoRapid Penfill® cartridges, ensure that the patient is prescribed a Novo Nordisk insulin delivery system and appropriate needles (see Additional Information);
- only if the above option is not considered suitable, consider prescribing Trurapi Solostar®;
- ensure that all patients initiated on a new device are counselled on the change in device, 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 sugar levels.

4. Dispensing doctors and pharmacies should:

- ensure that all patients presenting with a new prescription for NovoRapid Penfill® cartridge have access to an appropriate device and needles, and are able to use the device correctly (see Supporting Information); and
- ensure that all patients are counselled on the change in device and the potential need for closer monitoring of blood sugar levels during this time.

Additional Information

- NovoRapid Penfill® cartridges can be used with the NovoPen 6® and NovoPen Echo Plus® devices.
- It should be noted that NovoRapid FlexPen® is calibrated to adjust the dose in 1 unit increments and:
 - NovoPen 6® dials in 1 unit increments
 - NovoPen Echo Plus® dials in ½ unit increments.
- NovoRapid Penfill® cartridges are designed to be used with NovoFine® or NovoTwist® needles.
- Ensure that patients have access to this device and that the patient is thoroughly counselled on how to use this device. Further information can be found from the links below:
 - [Smart insulin pens - JDRF, the type 1 diabetes charity](#)
 - [Disclaimer \(connectedpen.co.uk\)](#)
 - [Training videos on Novopen® 6 and Novopen Echo® Plus](#)

Further information:

[SmPC for NovoRapid](#)

[SmPC for Trurapi 100 units/ml solution for injection in pre-filled pen](#)

[BNF Insulin aspart](#)

Enquiries

5. Enquiries from Health Boards or healthcare professionals should be directed in the first instance to PharmacyTeam@gov.scot (primary care) or NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot (secondary care).