



9 June 2023

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Tresiba (insulin degludec) FlexTouch 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens

Priority: Level 2*
Valid until: January 2024

Issue

1. Tresiba® FlexTouch® (Insulin degludec) 100units/ml pens will be out of stock from August 2023 until January 2024.
2. Tresiba Penfill® (Insulin degludec) 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml cartridges remain available and can support increased demand

Advice and Actions

3. Prescribers should:
 - not initiate new patients on Tresiba® FlexTouch® 100units/ml pens during this time;
 - consider prescribing Tresiba 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 Tresiba Penfill® cartridges, ensure that the patient is prescribed a Novo Nordisk insulin delivery system and appropriate needles (see Additional Information);
 - seek advice from specialist diabetes team on use of an alternative insulin, if the above option is not considered suitable; and
 - 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 Additional Information), as well as potential need for closer monitoring of blood glucose levels.
4. Pharmacists and dispensing doctors should:
 - ensure that all patients presenting with a new prescription for Tresiba Penfill® cartridges have access to an appropriate device and needles, and can 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 glucose levels during this time.

Additional Information

Clinical Information

5. Insulin degludec is a once-daily ultra-long-acting basal insulin licensed for the treatment of diabetes mellitus in adults, adolescents and children from the age of 1 year.
6. In NICE guidance on use of long-acting insulin for type 1 diabetes in adults, insulin degludec (100 units/ml) is suggested as an alternative basal insulin therapy to twice-daily insulin detemir if there is a particular concern about nocturnal hypoglycaemia or if people need help from a carer or healthcare professional to administer injections. Once-daily insulin glargine (100 units/ml) is another recommendation if insulin detemir is not tolerated or the person has a strong preference for once-daily basal injections.

Counselling points for clinicians, dispensing doctors and pharmacists

7. Tresiba Penfill® cartridges can be used with the NovoPen 6® and NovoPen Echo Plus® devices.
8. It should be noted that Tresiba® FlexTouch® U100 pens are 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.
9. Ensure that patients have access to a suitable device and that the patient is thoroughly counselled on how to use this device. Further information can be found from the link below:
 - [Smart insulin pens - JDRF, the type 1 diabetes charity](#)

Further information

- [SmPC for Tresiba® FlexTouch® U100 pens](#)
- [SmPC for Tresiba Penfill® cartridges](#)
- [BNF Insulin degludec](#)
- [BNF: Insulin preparations](#)
- [Novo Nordisk quick guide to using NovoPen® 6 or NovoPen Echo® Plus](#)
- [NICE guidance: Type 1 diabetes in adults \(insulin therapy\)](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

10. The UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in conjunction with SPS have launched an online Medicines Supply Tool, which provides up to date information about medicine supply issues.
11. To access the online Medicines Supply Tool you need to register with the [SPS website](#). Registration for access to the website is available to UK healthcare professionals and organisations providing NHS healthcare. The tool is located under the Tools tab and then click on the Medicines Supply option.
12. We encourage prescribers, pharmacy professionals, and pharmacy procurement leads in Scotland to register with the SPS website and use its Medicine Supply Tool in order to stay up to date concerning medicines supply disruptions.

13. Please be aware that while medicines supply issues will appear on the SPS website, some of the recommended actions may not always be appropriate / relevant within the Scottish context.

Enquiries

14. 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).