



20 May 2024

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Humulin® S (insulin soluble human) 100units/ml solution for injection 10ml vials**

**Priority: Level 2\***

**Valid until: mid-June 2024**

#### **Issue**

1. Humulin® S (insulin soluble human) 100units/ml 10ml vials will be out of stock from late May 2024 until mid-June 2024.
2. Actrapid® (insulin soluble human) 100units/ml 10ml vials remain available and can support increased demand.
3. This MSAN is the second of two, covering supply issues with insulin vials. The first MSAN ([MSAN\(2024\)23](#)) issued on 13 May 2024 covered Humalog® vials. This MSAN (MSAN(2024)26) covers Humulin® S (insulin soluble human). As these products have similar sounding names, appropriate risk minimisation strategies should be implemented to ensure actions are carried out for specific products.

#### **Advice and Actions**

4. Prescribers should:
  - not initiate patients on Humulin® S vials until the resupply date;
  - review individual patients and consider if insulin vials are still the most appropriate mechanism for insulin delivery;
  - where stock of Humulin® S vials has been exhausted, prescribe Actrapid® vials until the shortage has resolved (see Additional Information); the excipients of Actrapid® differ from those of Humulin® S vials, therefore before switching ensure that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients;
  - counsel patients that they are receiving the same type of insulin but initially they may need to check their blood glucose levels more closely; and
  - if Actrapid® vials are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from the specialist diabetes team on management options.

#### **Additional Information**

##### **Clinical Information**

\*<https://www.nss.nhs.scot/media/1842/medicine-supply-alert-notices-definitions-of-classifications-21-october-2019.pdf>

5. Humulin® S and Actrapid® are two brands of soluble insulin that are available in vials. There is unlikely to be any dose change when switching between them. However, after the switch, the dose should be guided by blood glucose control and signs of hypoglycaemia. If upon review a patient would benefit from switching to an alternative delivery mechanism (insulin prefilled pens or cartridges with re-usable pens), advice should be sought from the local diabetes specialist team.

#### Links to further information

- [BNF – Insulin](#)
- [SmPC – Humulin® S 100units/ml solution for injection 10ml vials](#)
- [SmPC – Actrapid® 100units/ml solution for injection 10ml vials](#)

#### **Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website**

6. 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. 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.
7. We encourage prescribers, pharmacy professionals, and pharmacy procurement leads in Scotland to register with the SPS website and use its Medicine Supply Tool to stay up to date concerning medicines supply disruptions. 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**

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