



22 November 2024

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **NovoRapid® (insulin aspart) FlexTouch® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens**

**Priority: Level 2\***

**Valid until: product is being discontinued**

#### **Issue**

1. NovoRapid® (insulin aspart) **FlexTouch® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens** are being discontinued; stock is anticipated to be exhausted by March 2025.
2. NovoRapid® (insulin aspart) **FlexPen® 100 units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens** remain available and can support a full increase in demand.
3. NovoRapid® (insulin aspart) **Penfill® 100 units/ml solution for injection 3ml cartridges** remain available and can support a full increase in demand.
4. **Insulin aspart biosimilar, Trurapi®** (100units/ml solution for injection in 3ml pre-filled SoloStar® pens and 3ml cartridges) remain available and can support a full increase in demand.
5. **TO NOTE:** This is the first of three MSANs covering discontinuations with Novo Nordisk insulin products (NovoRapid® FlexTouch®, Insulatard® Penfill® and all Levemir® presentations). The remaining MSANs will be issued shortly. It should be noted that where alternative insulin products have been recommended consideration has been made both to these product discontinuations and the wider supply availability of insulin.

#### **Advice and Actions**

6. Specialist diabetes teams/clinicians should:
  - **not initiate new patients on NovoRapid® FlexTouch® pens;** and
  - pro-actively review all patients currently prescribed NovoRapid® FlexTouch® pens and consider switching to alternate means of delivering insulin aspart or an alternative rapid or ultrarapid insulin depending on the clinical situation. Clinicians should take into account manual dexterity, vision, ability to use the new device correctly, whether additional support is required for administration (see additional information section), sustainability and cost effectiveness. Options include:
    - **NovoRapid® FlexPen®** 100 units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens; or
    - **NovoRapid® Penfill®** 100 units/ml solution for injection 3ml cartridges with a Novo Nordisk delivery device and needles;

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

- an **insulin aspart biosimilar, Trurapi®** (pre-filled pen or cartridge with suitable delivery device), as an alternative to NovoRapid, in line with local prescribing policies/formularies.

#### 7. Pharmacy teams should:

- ensure that all patients are informed of reason for switch, for those remaining on insulin aspart reassure them that they are receiving the same insulin at the same dose, 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 required initially, and dose may need to be adjusted if required (see additional information section).

### Additional Information

#### FlexTouch® and FlexPen®

8. The FlexTouch® pen uses a different mechanism to deliver its insulin, which is helpful for patients with arthritis/ insufficient strength in hand/poor manual dexterity. Instead of relying on pressure on the plunger as with the FlexPen®, it has a spring-loaded button which, when pressed, delivers the selected dose. Also useful as patients can just touch the delivery button with their thumb rather than having to extend it to reach the plunger of a FlexPen®.

#### Switching between insulin pens

9. When switching to another pen, please ensure patients are provided with appropriate education and training to ensure they can use the new device and administer the correct dose. As a precaution, the patient should be advised to initially monitor their glucose levels more closely. 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.

#### NovoRapid® Penfill® and Trurapi® cartridges

10. These are intended for use in a designated reusable pen which can be prescribed on an GP10 prescription.

#### NovoRapid® pens

- NovoRapid® FlexTouch® delivers 1 to 80 units in 1-unit increments.
- NovoRapid® FlexPen® delivers 1 to 60 units in 1-unit increments.
- NovoRapid® Penfill® cartridges can be used with the NovoPen® 6 and NovoPen® Echo® Plus. It should be noted that:
  - NovoPen® 6 delivers 1 to 60 units in 1-unit increments
  - NovoPen® Echo® Plus delivers 0.5 to 30 units in 0.5-unit increments.

#### Trurapi® Pens

- Trurapi® in pre-filled pen delivers 1 to 80 units in increments of 1 unit.

- Trurapi® in cartridges are designated to be used in the following pens available in the UK:
  - AllStar® PRO delivers 1 to 80 units in 1-unit dose increments.
  - JuniorSTAR® delivers 1 to 30 units in 0.5-unit dose increments

#### Links to further information

- [BNF – Insulin](#)
- [SmPC – NovoRapid® FlexTouch® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens](#)
- [SmPC – NovoRapid® FlexPen® 100 units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens](#)
- [Novo Nordisk® FlexPen® webpage](#)
- [SmPC – NovoRapid® Penfill® 100 units/ml solution for injection 3ml cartridge](#)
- [Novo Nordisk® injection devices and needles](#)
- [SmPC – Trurapi® SoloStar® 100units/ml solution for injection in pre-filled pen](#)
- [User guide - Trurapi® SoloStar® pre-filled pen](#)
- [SmPC – Trurapi® 100 units/ml solution for injection 3ml cartridges](#)
- [Patient booklet for AllStar® PRO pen for Trurapi®](#)
- [Patient booklet for JuniorSTAR® pen for Trurapi®](#)

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

11. 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.
12. 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**

13. 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).