



28 July 2025

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

- **Humulin® I (insulin isophane human) 100units/ml suspension for injection 10ml vials**
- **Humulin® M3 (insulin isophane biphasic human 30/70) 100units/ml suspension for injection 10ml vials**
- **Humalog® Mix25 (insulin lispro biphasic 25/75) 100units/ml suspension for injection 10ml vials**
- **Humulin® S (insulin soluble human) 100units/ml solution for injection 10ml vials**

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: above noted products are being discontinued

Issue

1. Vials of Humulin® I, Humulin® S, Humulin® M3, and Humalog® Mix25 are being discontinued.
2. Supplies of Humulin® I and Humalog® Mix25 vials are anticipated to be exhausted by the end of April 2026; and Humulin® M3 and Humulin® S vials by the end of May 2026.
3. Humulin® I, Humulin® S, Humulin® M3, and Humalog® Mix25 in cartridges (for use with HumaPen® Savvio® reusable pen) remain available, and can support increased demand (see Additional information section).
4. Humulin® I, Humulin® M3 and Humalog® Mix25 in disposable KwikPens® remain available and can support increased demand (see Additional information section).
5. Insulatard® (insulin isophane human) 100units/ml suspension for injection and Actrapid® (insulin soluble human) 100units/ml solution for injection 10ml vials remain available but cannot support increased demand.

Advice and Actions

6. Clinicians should not initiate new patients on vials of Humulin® I, Humulin® S, Humulin® M3, and Humalog® Mix25.
7. For patients using the vials and for whom a switch to a pen injector is considered appropriate (after taking into account manual dexterity, vision, and additional support that may be required to aid administration), clinicians should:
 - consider switching to **cartridges for use with HumaPen® Savvio® reusable pen or disposable KwikPens®** (see Additional information section);

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

- ensure that all patients are informed of reason for the switch, reassuring them they are receiving the same insulin, but via a pen, and initially may need to check their blood glucose levels more closely;
- provide patients with training on the use of the pen, including signposting to training videos, as well as needles and a sharps bin; and
- for patients who cannot use these pen devices and have no carers to support them with administration, advice should be sought from local diabetes teams on alternative management options.

Additional Information

Clinical Information

8. Extracting insulin from prefilled pens and cartridges is considered a NEVER event and should not occur in clinical practice. Extracting insulin from prefilled pens and cartridges carries a high-risk of insulin administration errors, and in particular, accidental insulin overdose. The risk of an insulin administration error, and the consequences thereof, have the potential for high risk of harm and catastrophic events.

Switching between insulin delivery devices

9. When switching to another device for administering insulin, 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.
10. KwikPens® are pre-filled disposable pens that dial up insulin in 1 unit increments, allowing the delivery of 1 to 60 units in a single injection.
11. The reusable HumaPen® Savvio® is intended for use with the 3ml cartridges. The pen dials up insulin in 1 unit increments, allowing the delivery of 1 to 60 units in a single injection. It is suitable for use with BD pen needles.

Supply information

Table 1: Discontinued products and alternative presentations that remain available and can fully support

Brand name of discontinued product	Generic name	Alternative presentations
Humulin® S vials	Insulin soluble human	Humulin® S cartridges (3ml) in HumaPen® Savvio®
Humulin® I vials	Insulin isophane human	Humulin® I KwikPens® Humulin® I cartridges (3ml) in HumaPen® Savvio®
Humulin® M3 vials	Insulin isophane biphasic human 30/70	Humulin® M3 KwikPens® Humulin® M3 cartridges (3ml) in HumaPen® Savvio®
Humalog® Mix25 vials	Insulin lispro biphasic 25/75	Humalog® Mix25 KwikPens® Humalog® Mix25 cartridges (3ml) in HumaPen® Savvio®

Links to further information

- [BNF Insulin](#)
- [BNF Insulin preparations](#)
- [SmPC Humulin](#)
- [SmPC Humalog Mix25](#)
- [NICE guidance: Type 1 diabetes in adults \(insulin therapy\)](#)
- [NICE CKS- Insulin therapy in type 1 diabetes](#)
- [NICE CKS- Insulin therapy in type 2 diabetes](#)
- [Eli Lilly HumaPen Savvio device for Humalog cartridges](#)
- [User manual - Humulin I / M3 KwikPen 100units/ml suspension for injection in pre-filled pens](#)
- [User manual - Humalog Mix25 KwikPen 100units/ml suspension for injection in pre-filled pens](#)
- [Eli Lilly HumaPen Savvio device for Humulin cartridges](#)
- [Patient safety alert: Risk of severe harm and death due to withdrawing insulin from pen devices](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

12. The UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in conjunction with the Specialist Pharmacy Service 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.
13. 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

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).