



28 July 2025

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

- **Hypurin® Porcine Isophane (insulin isophane porcine) 100units/ml suspension for injection 10ml vials**
- **Hypurin® Porcine Neutral (insulin soluble porcine) 100units/ml solution for injection 10ml vials**
- **Hypurin® Porcine 30/70 Mix (insulin isophane biphasic porcine 30/70) 100units/ml suspension for injection 10ml vials**

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: above noted products are being discontinued

Issue

1. Vial presentations of Hypurin® Porcine Isophane, Hypurin® Porcine Neutral and Hypurin® Porcine 30/70 Mix are being discontinued with supplies anticipated to be exhausted by the end of September 2025, mid-February 2026, and end of July 2026, respectively.
2. The cartridge presentations of these products remain available and can support increased demand.
3. Hypurin® Porcine cartridges are compatible with the AutoPen® Classic, and with the new mypen®2, which will be available from late September 2025.
4. Note: AutoPen® Classic has been discontinued but limited stock remains available and can be used until mypen®2 is available (see Additional information section).

Advice and Actions

5. Clinicians should not initiate new patients on **vials** of Hypurin® Porcine insulins.
6. For existing patients using the vials and for whom a switch to the cartridges is considered appropriate (after taking into account manual dexterity, vision, and additional support that may be required to aid administration), clinicians should:
 - consider prescribing **cartridges** of Hypurin® Porcine Isophane, Neutral and 30/70 Mix (see Supporting information);
 - ensure that all patients are informed of reason for the switch and that they are receiving the same insulin contained in the cartridge, but initially they may need to check their blood glucose levels more closely;
 - provide patients with training on the use of their new device, including signposting to training videos; and
 - ensure patients are provided with the AutoPen® Classic until mypen®2 is available, as well as needles and a sharps bin; and

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

- 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

7. 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.
8. Structurally, porcine insulin differs from human insulin by one amino acid. Like human insulin, porcine insulin is available in various formulations (soluble, isophane, 30/70 Mix).
9. Although there have been reports in the past that transfer to human insulin was associated with loss of the warning symptoms of hypoglycaemia in some patients, which resulted in higher frequencies of severe hypoglycaemia, many studies have refuted an increased incidence of hypoglycaemia.

Switching between insulin devices

10. 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.

Pen devices

11. Hypurin® Porcine cartridges are compatible with mypen®2 and Autopen® Classic devices.
12. The AutoPen® Classic comes in two presentations:
 - 1 unit dial up / range 1 to 21 units in a single injection
 - 2 unit dial up / range 2 to 42 units in a single injection

Mypen®2 dials up 1 unit at a time and can deliver 1 to 60 units in a single injection.

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
Hypurin® Porcine Isophane vials	Insulin isophane porcine	Hypurin® Porcine Isophane 3ml cartridges
Hypurin® Porcine Neutral vials	Insulin soluble porcine	Hypurin® Porcine Neutral 3ml cartridges
Hypurin® Porcine 30/70 Mix vials	Insulin isophane biphasic porcine 30/70	Hypurin® Porcine 30/70 Mix 3ml cartridges

Links to further information

- [BNF Insulin](#)
- [BNF Insulin preparations](#)
- [SmPC Hypurin Porcine vials and cartridges](#)
- [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](#)
- [Wockhardt mypen2 device user manual](#)
- [Owen and Mumford Autopen Classic device user manual](#)
- [Patient safety alert: Risk of severe harm and death due to withdrawing insulin from pen devices](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

13. 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.
14. 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

15. 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).