



25 August 2025

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Levemir® (insulin detemir) FlexPen® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens and Levemir® (insulin detemir) Penfill 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml cartridges - Update**

**Priority: Level 2\***

**Valid until: noted products are being discontinued**

#### **Issue**

1. Levemir® (insulin detemir) FlexPen® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens and Levemir® (insulin detemir) Penfill® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml cartridges are being discontinued; stock is anticipated to be exhausted by the end of 2026.
2. [Clinical guidance](#) has been produced by clinical experts (see Additional information section).
3. Current supply positions and ability of alternative insulins to support an increase in demand are summarised below. Any changes to availability will be communicated via the [Medicines Supply Tool](#) located on the Specialist Pharmacy Service website (registration required).
4. This MSAN supersedes [MSAN \(2025\) 30](#), issued on 18 June 2025. New / updated information is in bold.

#### **Advice and Actions**

5. Clinicians should:
  - not initiate new patients on any Levemir® product; and
  - **begin implementing insulin switches for all existing Levemir® patients in line with the clinical guidance (see Additional information section).**
6. Local teams should avoid initiating widespread switches without checking the current supply overview of alternative insulins to reduce the risk of precipitating a supply disruption of these products (see Additional information section).
7. **As recommended in the clinical guidance, clinicians should aim to diversify prescribing across available alternatives to reduce supply risk where possible.**
8. **In addition to consulting the clinical guidance, when prescribing alternatives, consider manual dexterity, vision, and whether additional support is required for administration, and:**
  - **ensure that all patients/carers are counselled on the dose to be administered, provided with training on the use of their new device, as well as appropriate ancillaries, including signposting to training videos; and**

- advise patients that closer monitoring of blood glucose levels is required initially, and their insulin dose may need to be adjusted.

9. Seek advice from specialist diabetes teams where required.

## Additional Information

### Supply summary table

10. Levemir is a long-acting insulin analogue **with a prolonged duration** of effect used as a basal insulin. It is licensed for the treatment of diabetes mellitus in adults, adolescents and children aged 1 year and above. **It can be used alone as the basal insulin or in combination with bolus insulin. It can also be used in combination with oral antidiabetic medicinal products and/or GLP-1 receptor agonists.**
11. **As insulin glargine is available in two strengths, these products must be prescribed BY BRAND to minimise the risk of product mis-selection.**
12. **There are important pharmacological differences between long-acting insulin analogues and clinicians will need to consult the clinical guidance carefully on how to switch formulations safely.**

Insulin type		Supply overview	
Insulin type	Brand name and devices	Stock status	Ability to support increased demand
Insulin glargine U100 (Long acting)	Abasaglar® KwikPen®	In stock	Cannot support
	Abasaglar® cartridges	In stock	Cannot support
	Lantus® SoloStar®	In stock	Can support
	Lantus® cartridges	In stock	Can support
	Semglee® pre-filled pens (biosimilar)	In stock	Can support
Insulin glargine U300 (Ultralong acting)	Toujeo® SoloStar®	In stock	Can support
	Toujeo® DoubleStar®	In stock	Can support
Insulin degludec (Ultralong acting)	Tresiba® U100 FlexTouch®	Out of stock until early January 2026	Cannot support
	Tresiba® U100 cartridges	In stock	Can support
	Tresiba® U200 FlexTouch®	In stock	Can support
Human isophane insulin (intermediate acting)	Humulin I® KwikPen®	In stock	Cannot support
	Humulin I® cartridges	In stock	Cannot support

### Links to further information

- [Clinical Guideline: Discontinuation of Levemir®](#)
- [BNF Insulin detemir](#)
- [BNF Insulin preparations](#)
- [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](#)
- [SmPC Levemir®](#)
- [SmPC Lantus®](#)
- [SmPC Toujeo®](#)
- [SmPC Abasaglar®](#)
- [SmPC Semglee®](#)
- [SmPC Tresiba®](#)
- [SmPC Humulin® I](#)
- [SPS Medicines Supply Tool - Shortage of Tresiba \(insulin degludec\) FlexTouch 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens](#)

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

13. 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.
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](mailto:PharmacyTeam@gov.scot) (primary care) or [NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot](mailto:NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot) (secondary care).