



6 January 2026

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Hypurin® Porcine 30/70 Mix (insulin isophane biphasic porcine) 100units/ml suspension for injection 3ml cartridges

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: mid-January

Issue

1. Hypurin® Porcine 30/70 Mix 100units/ml suspension for injection 3ml cartridges will be out of stock until mid-January 2026.
2. Any remaining stock of Hypurin® Porcine 30/70 Mix 100units/ml suspension for injection 3ml cartridges expired on 31 December 2025.
3. Hypurin® Porcine 30/70 Mix suspension for injection 10ml vials are being discontinued, but stock remains available until February 2026 and can support increased demand. A Medicine Supply Alert Notice (MSAN) was issued on 28 July 2025. Please refer to [MSAN\(2025\)38](#) for further information.

Advice and Actions

4. Clinicians in primary care should:
 - not initiate new patients on Hypurin® Porcine 30/70 Mix cartridges until the shortage has resolved;
 - identify and contact patients currently prescribed Hypurin® Porcine 30/70 Mix **cartridges** to confirm their current stock holding;
 - where patients have previously used Hypurin® Porcine 30/70 Mix **vials**, consider prescribing this presentation temporarily, ensuring there is appropriate personnel in the practice to train and refresh patients on how to safely draw and administer a subcutaneous dose with the correct technique; or
 - where there are no appropriate personnel in the practice to ensure patients can draw up and administer a subcutaneous dose safely, or where patients have no history of using Hypurin® Porcine 30/70 Mix **vials** refer to local diabetes specialist services for advice on temporary management options for the duration of the duration of the Hypurin® Porcine 30/70 Mix 100units/ml suspension for injection 3ml cartridges shortage.
5. Diabetes teams should:
 - where patients have previously used Hypurin® Porcine 30/70 Mix **vials**, consider prescribing this presentation temporarily, ensuring they can draw up and administer a subcutaneous dose safely, or

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

- where this is not suitable, consider prescribing an alternative insulin cartridge in line with local guidelines, and consider the patient's manual dexterity and vision, ensuring patients are provided with training on the new device, dose to be administered, and signposted to training videos where available;
 - it should be noted that porcine and human insulin are not equivalent unit for unit and significant dose reductions may need to be considered when switching from porcine to human insulin;
 - advise patients that closer monitoring of blood glucose levels is required initially and to inform the prescriber where readings are less stable than usual, in case the insulin dose needs to be adjusted; and
 - provide patients with the appropriate ancillaries and a sharps bin for safe disposal of needles.
6. Clinicians should ensure that patients are reviewed and switched back to Hypurin® Porcine 30/70 Mix **cartridges** once the supply issue has resolved.

Additional Information

Porcine and human insulins

7. 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). Although there have been historical reports 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.

Administration of insulin using a vial and syringe

8. The correct size of needle is essential to ensure insulin is injected into subcutaneous tissue rather than into muscle. Insulin should be injected at a 90-degree angle. When using an 8mm insulin needle and syringe, a lifted skin fold (two finger pinch) should be used to avoid intramuscular insulin administration.

Links to further information

- [BNF Insulin](#)
- [BNF Insulin preparations](#)
- [SPC: Hypurin insulin products](#)
- [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](#)
- [NICE CKS: Insulin therapy- injection technique](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

9. The UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in conjunction with the Specialist Pharmacy Service (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.
10. Prescribers, pharmacy professionals, and pharmacy procurement leads in Scotland are encouraged 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

11. 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).