



28 March 2024

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Levemir InnoLet® (insulin detemir) 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled disposable devices

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: being discontinued, stock exhausted by the end of May 2024

Issue

1. Levemir® InnoLet® (insulin detemir) 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled disposable devices are being discontinued with remaining stock exhausted by the end of May 2024.
2. Levemir® FlexPen® (insulin detemir) 100 units/ml pre-filled pens and Levemir® Penfill® (insulin detemir) 100 units/ml cartridges remain available and can support increased demand.

Advice and Actions

3. Prescribers should:

- not initiate patients on Levemir® InnoLet®;
- identify and review patients currently prescribed Levemir® InnoLet®;
- consider prescribing Levemir® FlexPens® or Levemir® Penfill® cartridges where appropriate, taking into account the patient's manual dexterity, vision, ability to use new device correctly, and whether support is required with administering the dose;
- when prescribing Levemir® Penfill® cartridges, ensure that the patient is prescribed a Novo Nordisk insulin delivery system and appropriate needles (see Additional Information); and
- seek advice from specialist diabetes team on management options if the above options are not considered suitable.

4. Prescribers and pharmacies should:

- ensure that all patients initiated on a new device are 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 may be required (see Additional Information).

Additional Information

Insulin detemir

5. A soluble, long-acting insulin analogue. Duration of action is up to 24 hours depending on dose. If administered twice daily, steady state will occur after 2–3 dose administrations.

InnoLet® delivery device

6. This was developed for people with a visual or physical impairment to be able to set and inject insulin doses. It is a compact pre-filled pen able to deliver 1 to 50 units in increments of 1 unit. It comprises a pre-filled insulin reservoir and a large simple to use dial that has larger print numbers and gives an audible click each time the dial is moved. The dial is turned to the number of units to be delivered and the top of the device is pressed to administer the dose, after which the dial returns to zero.

Levemir® FlexPen®

7. Pre-filled pen that delivers 1–60 units of insulin in one injection in increments of 1 unit.

Levemir® Penfill® cartridges

8. These can be used with the NovoPen 6® and NovoPen Echo® Plus devices, which are prescribable on the NHS:
 - NovoPen 6® can deliver up to a 60-unit dose of insulin in one injection and the dose goes up in 1-unit increments.
 - NovoPen Echo® Plus can deliver up to a 30-unit dose of insulin in one injection and the dose goes up in 0.5-unit increments.

Links to further information

- [SmPC for Levemir® InnoLet® pens](#)
- [SmPC for Levemir® FlexPen®](#)
- [SmPC for Levemir® Penfill® cartridges](#)
- [BNF: Insulin detemir](#)
- [BNF: Insulin preparations](#)
- [Smart insulin pens - JDRF, the type 1 diabetes charity](#)
- [Novo Nordisk quick guide to using NovoPen® 6 or NovoPen Echo® Plus](#)
- [NICE guidance: Type 1 diabetes in adults \(insulin therapy\)](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

9. 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.

10. 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

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).