



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2024/103

TO NOTE: This is the first of three MSNs covering discontinuations with Novo Nordisk insulin products (NovoRapid[®] FlexTouch[®], Insulatard[®] Penfill[®] and all Levemir[®] presentations). The remaining MSNs will be issued shortly. It should be noted that where alternative insulin products have been recommended consideration has been made both to these product discontinuations and the wider supply availability of insulin.

NovoRapid[®] (insulin aspart) FlexTouch[®] 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 16/10/2024

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- NovoRapid[®] (insulin aspart) **FlexTouch[®] 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens** are being discontinued; stock is anticipated to be exhausted by March 2025.
- NovoRapid[®] (insulin aspart) **FlexPen[®] 100 units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens** remain available and can support a full increase in demand.
- NovoRapid[®] (insulin aspart) **Penfill[®] 100 units/ml solution for injection 3ml cartridges** remain available and can support a full increase in demand.
- **Insulin aspart biosimilar, Trurapi[®]** (100units/ml solution for injection in 3ml pre-filled SoloStar[®] pens and 3ml cartridges) remain available and can support a full increase in demand.

Actions Required

Clinicians should:

- not initiate new patients on NovoRapid[®] FlexTouch[®] pens; and
- pro-actively review all patients currently prescribed NovoRapid[®] FlexTouch[®] pens and consider switching patients to another NovoRapid delivery device, taking into account manual dexterity, vision, ability to use new device correctly, and whether additional support is required for administration (see supporting information):
 - **NovoRapid[®] FlexPen[®]** 100 units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens; or
 - **NovoRapid[®] Penfill[®]** 100 units/ml solution for injection 3ml cartridges with a Novo Nordisk delivery device and needles;
- also consider appropriateness of switching to **insulin aspart biosimilar, Trurapi[®]** (pre-filled pen or cartridge with suitable delivery device), as an alternative to NovoRapid, in line with local prescribing policies/formularies.

If the above options are not suitable; seek advice from specialist diabetes team on management options.

Pharmacy teams should:

- ensure that all patients are informed of reason for switch, reassured they are receiving the same insulin at the same dose, 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 required initially, and dose may need to be adjusted if required (see supporting information).

*Classification of Tiers can be found at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/a-guide-to-managing-medicines-supply-and-shortages/>

Supporting information

FlexTouch® and FlexPen®

The FlexTouch® pen uses a different mechanism to deliver its insulin, which is helpful for patients with arthritis/insufficient strength in hand/poor manual dexterity. Instead of relying on pressure on the plunger as with the FlexPen®, it has a spring-loaded button which, when pressed, delivers the selected dose. Also useful as patients can just touch the delivery button with their thumb rather than having to extend it to reach the plunger of a FlexPen®.

Switching between insulin pens

When switching to another pen, 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.

NovoRapid® Penfill® and Trurapi® cartridges

These are intended for use in a designated reusable pen which can be prescribed on an FP10.

NovoRapid® pens

NovoRapid® FlexTouch® delivers 1 to 80 units in 1-unit increments.

NovoRapid® FlexPen® delivers 1 to 60 units in 1-unit increments.

NovoRapid® Penfill® cartridges can be used with the NovoPen® 6 and NovoPen® Echo® Plus. It should be noted that:

- NovoPen® 6 delivers 1 to 30 units in 1-unit increments
- NovoPen® Echo® Plus delivers 0.5 to 30 units in 0.5-unit increments.

Trurapi® Pens

Trurapi® in pre-filled pen delivers 1 to 80 units in increments of 1 unit.

Trurapi® in cartridges are designated to be used in the following pens available in the UK:

- AllStar® PRO delivers 1 to 80 units in 1-unit dose increments.
- JuniorSTAR® delivers 1 to 30 units in 0.5-unit dose increments

Links to further information

[BNF – Insulin](#)

[SmPC – NovoRapid® FlexTouch® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens](#)

[SmPC – NovoRapid® FlexPen® 100 units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens](#)

[Novo Nordisk® FlexPen® webpage](#)

[SmPC – NovoRapid® Penfill® 100 units/ml solution for injection 3ml cartridges](#)

[Novo Nordisk® injection devices and needles](#)

[SmPC – Trurapi® SoloStar® 100units/ml solution for injection in pre-filled pen](#)

[User guide - Trurapi® SoloStar® pre-filled pen](#)

[SmPC – Trurapi® 100 units/ml solution for injection 3ml cartridges](#)

[Patient booklet for AllStar® PRO pen for Trurapi®](#)

[Patient booklet for JuniorSTAR® pen for Trurapi®](#)

Enquiries

If you have any queries, please contact DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.