



# Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2024/103U

## UPDATE:

Updates to communication (MSN/2024/103) issued 16 October 2024 **in bold**

**TO NOTE:** This is an update to one of the three MSNs covering discontinuations of Novo Nordisk insulin products (NovoRapid<sup>®</sup> FlexTouch<sup>®</sup>, Insulatard<sup>®</sup> Penfill<sup>®</sup> and all Levemir<sup>®</sup> presentations). It should be noted that where alternative insulin products have been recommended, consideration has been made both to these product discontinuations, and availability of other insulin products.

## **NovoRapid<sup>®</sup> (insulin aspart) FlexTouch<sup>®</sup> 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens**

Tier 2 – medium impact\*

Date of issue: 07/01/2025

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

## Summary

- **NovoRapid<sup>®</sup> (insulin aspart) FlexTouch<sup>®</sup> 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens are out of stock until late February 2025 and will subsequently be discontinued from March 2025.**
- NovoRapid<sup>®</sup> (insulin aspart) **FlexPen<sup>®</sup>** 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens remain available and can support a full increase in demand.
- NovoRapid<sup>®</sup> (insulin aspart) **Penfill<sup>®</sup>** 100 units/ml solution for injection 3ml cartridges remain available and can support a full increase in demand.
- Insulin aspart biosimilar, Trurapi<sup>®</sup> (100units/ml solution for injection in 3ml pre-filled SoloStar<sup>®</sup> pens and 3ml cartridges) remain available and can support a full increase in demand.

## Actions Required

Clinicians should:

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

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

## Switching between insulin pens

When switching to another pen device, ensure patients are provided with appropriate education and training to ensure they can use the new pen device and administer the correct dose. As a precaution, the patient should be advised to initially monitor their glucose levels more closely and should be advised to speak to/seek advice from their specialist diabetes team if they record new blood glucose excursions (high or low readings).

## 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 60 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](mailto:DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk).