



## Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2024/057

**TO NOTE:** This MSN is the second of two covering supply issues with insulin vials. The first MSN (MSN/2024/053) issued on 09/05/24 covered *Humalog<sup>®</sup> vials*. This MSN (MSN/2024/057) covers **Humulin<sup>®</sup> S (insulin soluble human)**. **CAUTION:** These products have similar sounding names and appropriate risk minimisation strategies should be implemented to ensure actions are carried out for specific products.

### Humulin<sup>®</sup> S (insulin soluble human) 100units/ml solution for injection 10ml vials

Tier 2 – medium impact\*

Date of issue: 20/05/2024

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

### Summary

- Humulin<sup>®</sup> S (insulin soluble human) 100units/ml 10ml vials will be out of stock from late May 2024 until mid-June 2024.
- Actrapid<sup>®</sup> (insulin soluble human) 100units/ml 10ml vials remain available and can support increased demand.

### Actions Required

Prescribers should:

- not initiate patients on Humulin<sup>®</sup> S vials until the resupply date;
- review individual patients and consider if insulin vials are still the most appropriate mechanism for insulin delivery;
- where stock of Humulin<sup>®</sup> S vials have been exhausted, prescribe Actrapid<sup>®</sup> vials until the shortage has resolved (see Supporting information); the excipients of Actrapid<sup>®</sup> differ from those of Humulin<sup>®</sup> S vials, therefore before switching ensure that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients;
- counsel patients that they are receiving the same type of insulin but initially they may need to check their blood glucose levels more closely; and
- if Actrapid<sup>®</sup> vials are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from diabetes team on management options.

\*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

## Clinical Information

Humulin® S and Actrapid® are two brands of soluble insulin that are available in vials. There is unlikely to be any dose change when switching between them. However, after the switch, the dose should be guided by blood glucose control and signs of hypoglycaemia. If upon review a patient would benefit from switching to an alternative delivery mechanism (insulin prefilled pens or cartridges with re-usable pens), advice should be sought from local diabetes team.

## Links to further information

[BNF – Insulin](#)

[SmPC – Humulin® S 100units/ml solution for injection 10ml vials](#)

[SmPC – Actrapid® 100units/ml solution for injection 10ml vials](#)

## Enquiries

Enquiries from NHS Trusts in England should in the first instance be directed to your Regional Pharmacy Procurement Specialist (RPPS) or Associate RPPS, who will escalate to national teams if required.

REGION	Lead RPPS	Email	Associate RPPS	Email
Midlands	Andi Swain	<a href="mailto:andi.swain@nhs.net">andi.swain@nhs.net</a>	vacant	
East of England	James Kent	<a href="mailto:james.kent@nhs.net">james.kent@nhs.net</a>	Tracy McMillan	<a href="mailto:tracy.mcmillan2@nhs.net">tracy.mcmillan2@nhs.net</a>
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### Scotland

[nss.nhssmedicineshortages@nhs.scot](mailto:nss.nhssmedicineshortages@nhs.scot)

### Wales

[MedicinesShortages@gov.wales](mailto:MedicinesShortages@gov.wales)

### Northern Ireland

[RPHPS.Admin@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:RPHPS.Admin@northerntrust.hscni.net)

All other organisations should send enquiries about this notice to the DHSC Medicine Supply Team quoting reference number MSN/2024/057.

Email: [DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk).