



Pharmaceutical Services, 2 Franklin Street, Belfast BT2 8DQ
Telephone No. 028 95 36 0333

To: All Community Pharmacists

7th January 2025

UPDATE:

Updates to communication (MPS 3286) issued 17 October 2024 in **bold**

TO NOTE: This is an update to one of the three MSNs covering discontinuations of Novo Nordisk insulin products (NovoRapid® FlexTouch®, Insulatard® Penfill® and all Levemir® 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.

Dear colleague

Medicine Supply Notification: NovoRapid® (insulin aspart) FlexTouch®
100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens
Tier 2 – medium impact

[Medicines Supply Tool – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#)

Summary

- **NovoRapid® (insulin aspart) FlexTouch® 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® (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.

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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;
 - Insulin aspart biosimilar, Trurapi® (pre-filled pen or cartridge with suitable delivery device), as an alternative to NovoRapid®.

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).

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 HS21.

NovoRapid® pens



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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](#)



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[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®](#)