

To: **South East London primary care colleagues**

Supply disruption of Fiasp® (insulin aspart) FlexTouch® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens

The Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) released a [Medication Supply Notification \(MSN\)](#) highlighting that Fiasp® (insulin aspart) FlexTouch® 100 units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens will be **out of stock from April 2024 until September 2025**.

Figure 1: Fiasp® 100 units/ml FlexTouch® Pen



During this period new patients should **NOT** be initiated on Fiasp® (insulin aspart) FlexTouch® 100 units/ml pre-filled pens.

Specialist diabetes teams in South East London will be contacting patients under their care recently prescribed Fiasp® (insulin aspart) FlexTouch® 100 units/ml to switch to an alternative option, depending on clinical and practical appropriateness and patient preference. Alternatives include:

- Fiasp® Penfill® 3ml cartridges for use with compatible reusable pen device (NovoPen® 6 or NovoPen Echo Plus®) – see additional advice.
- An alternative insulin if the above option is not considered suitable.

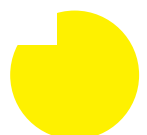
Action for primary care clinicians:

Identify all patients currently prescribed Fiasp® (insulin aspart) FlexTouch® 100 units/ml pre-filled pens using the EMIS search (available from the medicines optimisation teams) and follow advice below:

1. Contact patient to see if Fiasp® (insulin aspart) FlexTouch® 100 units/ml pre-filled pens have been switched already by specialist care teams.
 - a. If Fiasp® (insulin aspart) FlexTouch® 100 units/ml pre-filled pens have been changed, update repeat prescribing record as per letter from specialist team
 - b. If Fiasp® (insulin aspart) FlexTouch® 100 units/ml pre-filled pens have not been changed, follow advice on page 1 and 2 for urgent or non urgent switches:

Urgent/emergency switches:

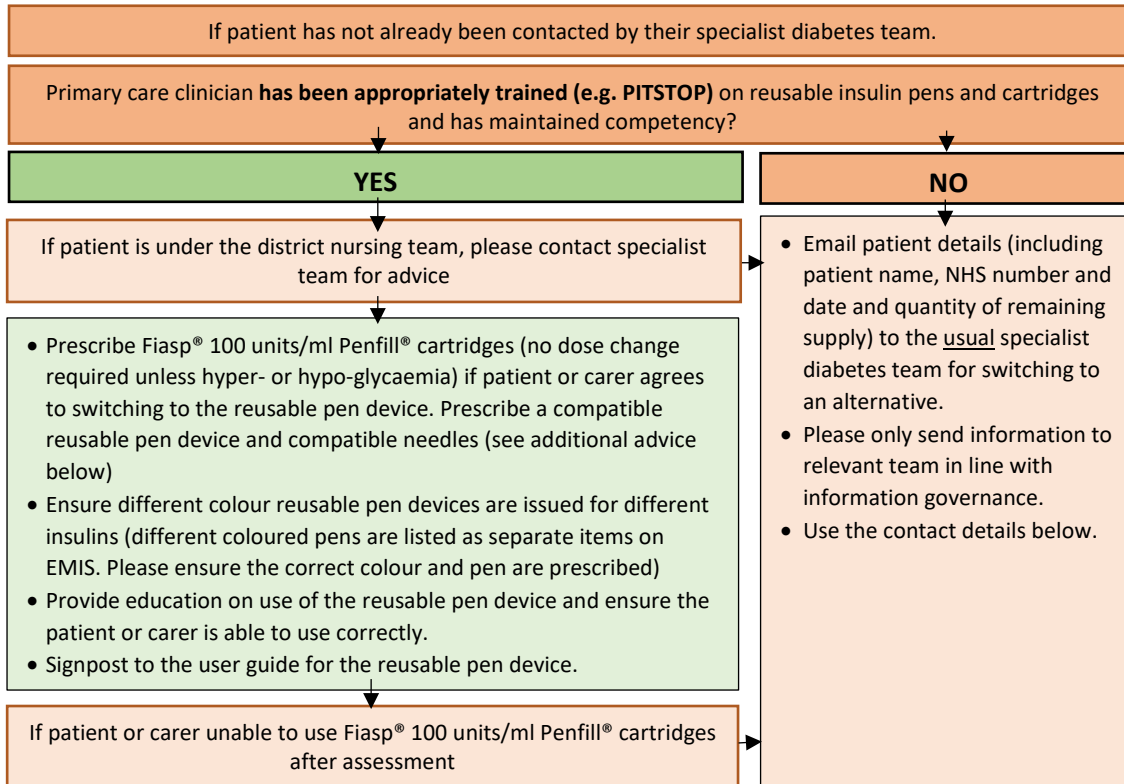
- If an urgent re-supply of rapid acting insulin is needed where a delay in obtaining a reusable pen device would leave the patient without rapid acting insulin, switch to NovoRapid® (insulin aspart) FlexPen® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens, at the same dose as a temporary change.
- If the patient has an allergy or previous side effect to NovoRapid®, please contact specialist team for urgent advice. Please ensure the patient is not left without rapid acting insulin.
- Advise that NovoRapid® insulin and Fiasp® insulin work slightly differently and that NovoRapid® insulin should be injected 10 minutes before the meal.



- If changing to the NovoRapid® FlexPen® device, ensure the patient or carer can use the device correctly.
- Advise patient to monitor glucose levels closely during this time and to seek advice if control is not optimised.
- Then follow figure 2 below for a long-term switch for the duration of the shortage.

Non-urgent switches (patient has sufficient supply):

Figure 2: Action flowchart for patients prescribed Fiasp® 100 units/ml FlexTouch® Pen.

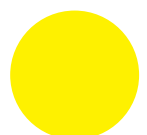


Action for community pharmacies:

- Inform patients presenting with prescriptions for Fiasp® (insulin aspart) FlexTouch® 100 units/ml that there is a temporary supply disruption and they will need to contact their prescriber for an alternative device/insulin to ensure that they do not run out of rapid acting insulin supply.
- Ensure patients presenting with a new prescription for Fiasp® Penfill® cartridges have the recommended reusable pen device and compatible needles, can use the pen device correctly, have been counselled on the change in device by the prescriber (see additional advice below), are aware of the need for closer monitoring of blood glucose levels, and to seek advice if control is not optimised.

Additional advice if switching to Fiasp® Penfill® 3ml cartridges:

- Consider the patient's manual dexterity and ability to use the new device correctly.
- Fiasp® Penfill® cartridges can be used with NovoPen 6® or NovoPen Echo Plus® reusable pen devices, which are prescribable on an FP10 prescription.
- The reusable pen devices may dial the dose in different dose unit increments compared to Fiasp® FlexTouch 100units/ml pens which dials in 1-unit increments:
 - NovoPen 6® dials in 1-unit increments
 - NovoPen Echo Plus® dials in ½-unit increments



- If there are concerns about delays in obtaining reusable pen devices via FP10 prescription, as pharmacies may not hold stock of these devices, please see urgent switching advice.
- Supply two reusable pens to ensure the patient has a spare device. Specialist teams may supply first reusable pen and request primary care clinicians to supply the spare pen via FP10 prescription.
- If patient already has a reusable pen for a different insulin, ensure a different colour reusable pen device is supplied to reduce risk of administration error. Different coloured pens are listed as separate items on EMIS. Please ensure the correct pen and colour are chosen.
- Please ensure that compatible needles are prescribed:
 - BD viva® or BD microfine® are compatible with both reusable pen devices
 - Tricare® needles and 4sure® needles are compatible with NovoPen Echo® Plus but cannot be used with NovoPen6® (not tested for compatibility).
- Advise patient to monitor glucose levels closely during this time and to seek advice if control is not optimised.
- If additional support or clinical input required, please contact usual team (see below).

Additional resources: [NovoPen6® and NovoPen Echo Plus® resources](#), [NovoPen 6® user guide](#) and [NovoPen Echo® user guide](#)

Contacts:

- NovoPen6® and NovoPen Echo Plus® (Novo Nordisk’s) Medical Information: 0800 023 2573
- Specialist diabetes teams: (if team not listed below contact via usual route or contact details on most recent clinic letter)

Adult Specialist Diabetes Teams	Email	Contact Number
Guy’s and St. Thomas’ Hospital	gst-tr.diabetesandendocrine@nhs.net	020 7188 1916
King’s College Hospital	kch-tr.diabetesnurses@nhs.net	02032999000 Ext 1739/1353
Queen Elizabeth Hospital	Lg.qediabetes@nhs.net	0208 836 5264
Queen Mary’s Hospital	lg.sidcupdiabetes@nhs.net	020 3960 5580
Bexley & Greenwich community team	oxl-tr.diabetes@nhs.net	0208 319 7078
Bromley community Team	Bromh.bromleydiabetesservice@nhs.net	0300 330 5777 Ext 2 adults Ext 2 diabetes
Lewisham Hospital Team	LH.DiabetesNurseReferrals@nhs.net	02031926462
Lambeth community team	gst-tr.diabetes@nhs.net	02086557842
Lewisham community team	LG.communitydiabetes@nhs.net	02031926540
Southwark community team	gst-tr.southwark-diabetes@nhs.net	02030498863

Paediatric Specialist Diabetes Teams	Email	Contact Number
Guy’s and St. Thomas’ Hospital	paediatricdiabetesteam@gstt.nhs.uk	02071884617
King’s College Hospital	kch-tr.PaediatricDiabetesTeam@nhs.net	-
Lewisham Hospital	LH.PaediatricDiabetes@nhs.net	-
Queen Elizabeth Hospital	LG.ChildrensDiabetes@nhs.net	0208 836 5851

References: (1) Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS): <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/shortages/shortage-of-fiasp-flextouch-insulin-aspart-100units-ml-solution-for-injection-3ml-pre-filled-pens> - accessed 16/9/24 (2) Department of Health and Social Care Medicines Supply Notification Fiasp® FlexTouch® (insulin aspart) 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens ® '26/3/24. (3) Summary of Product Characteristics: [Fiasp 100 units/mL Pre filled \(FlexTouch\)](#). (4) Summary of Product Characteristics: [Fiasp 100 units/mL Cartridge \(Penfill\)](#). (5) [NICE Guidance: Type 1 diabetes in adults \(insulin therapy\)](#). (6) Expert local opinion

This memo has additional clinical advice than that outlined in 'Department of Health and Social Care Medicines Supply Notification Fiasp® FlexTouch® (insulin aspart) 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens® 26/3/24', regarding urgent/emergency switches of Fiasp® (insulin aspart) FlexTouch® 100 units/ml pre-filled pens, due to this, the memo has been approved via SEL Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee.

Original approval date (via urgent Triage Panel process): April 2024. **Last reviewed and approved:** October 2024.
Next review date: October 2025 (or sooner if evidence or practice changes)

