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To: **South East London colleagues.**

Discontinuation of NovoRapid® (insulin aspart) FlexTouch® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens.

The Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) released a [Medicine Supply Notification](#) (MSN) 2024/103U highlighting that 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**. Other NovoRapid® devices such as FlexPen® or Penfill® cartridges are **NOT** affected and will continue to be available. The advice below is applicable to both adult and paediatric patients.

Figure 1: NovoRapid® (insulin aspart) FlexTouch® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens



Clinicians should **NOT** initiate new patients on NovoRapid® (insulin aspart) FlexTouch® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens.

Actions for Specialist Diabetes Teams:

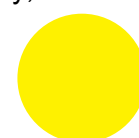
Contact patients under your care recently prescribed NovoRapid® (insulin aspart) FlexTouch® 100 units/ml pre-filled pens **and** switch to an alternative option, depending on clinical and practical appropriateness and patient preference. Alternatives include:

- NovoRapid® (insulin aspart) FlexPen® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens
- NovoRapid® (insulin aspart) Penfill® 100 units/ml solution for injection 3ml cartridges for use with a Novo Nordisk re-useable pen device
- Trurapi® (insulin aspart) SoloStar® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens
- Trurapi® (insulin aspart) 100 units/ml solution for injection 3ml cartridges for use with a Sanofi re-useable pen device

Advise patients to monitor glucose levels closely during the time of the switch and to seek advice if control is not optimised.

Actions for Primary Care Clinicians:

1. Identify all patients currently prescribed NovoRapid® (insulin aspart) FlexTouch® 100 units/ml pre-filled pens using the EMIS search (available from the medicines optimisation teams).
2. Contact patient to see if NovoRapid® (insulin aspart) FlexTouch® 100 units/ml pre-filled pens have been switched already by specialist care teams.
3. If they have already been switched, update the repeat prescribing record as per the letter from specialist team.
4. If they have NOT been switched, arrange a face to face review to consider changing to NovoRapid® (insulin aspart) FlexPen® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens. This decision should take into account the patient's manual dexterity, vision, ability to use new device correctly, and whether support is, or will be required with administration.



- The dose of NovoRapid® does not need to change when switching from NovoRapid® FlexTouch® to NovoRapid® FlexPen® device, unless there is hypo- or hyperglycaemia where it should be adjusted accordingly.
- If the FlexPen® device is not suitable, email the patient details (including patient name, NHS number and date and quantity of last issue) to the usual specialist diabetes team for switching to an alternative. Using the contact details below, please only send information to relevant team in line with information governance.
- Please ensure the patient is not left without rapid acting insulin.
- Advise patients to monitor glucose levels closely during the time of the switch and to seek advice if control is not optimised.
- Patient resources on using the FlexPen® device including a video can be found [here](#). The NovoRapid® FlexPen® patient information leaflet can be found [here](#).
- BD Viva™ and TriCare™ are **some** of the insulin pen needles that are compatible with NovoRapid® FlexPen® devices.

Actions for Community Pharmacies

- Inform patients presenting with prescriptions for NovoRapid® (insulin aspart) FlexTouch® 100 units/ml pre-filled pens that this is out of stock until late February 2025 and will subsequently be discontinued from March 2025.
- Advise them to contact their prescriber for an alternative device/insulin urgently, to ensure that they do not run out of rapid acting insulin.
- Ensure patients presenting with a new prescription for an alternative to NovoRapid® (insulin aspart) FlexTouch® 100 units/ml pre-filled pens, are informed of the reason for switching, can use the device correctly and have been counselled on the change in device by the prescriber.
- Ensure patients are aware of the need for closer monitoring of blood glucose levels, and to seek advice if control is not optimised.

Contacts:

- 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	gstt.lambeth-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): [Discontinuation of NovoRapid \(insulin aspart \) FlexTouch100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#)-accessed 17/01/25

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