









Number 30
30-03-16

Patient Safety ALERT – Newer Insulin Products

Several new insulin products have recently been licensed and are now available. It is important to familiarise yourself with the newer products; this alert outlines the key safety points to be aware of.

- A number of concentrated, **HIGHER STRENGTH** insulins have recently been introduced and are now available as 200 units/mL and 300units/mL strengths
- A ‘biosimilar’ insulin glargine brand (Abasaglar ▼) has recently been introduced in 100 unit/mL strength. Insulin glargine is also available as the brand ‘Lantus’, but these brands are not interchangeable
- To avoid confusion, all insulins must be prescribed by BRAND

Active substance	Brand name and Strength/s available	Administration devices	Notes
Insulin degludec	Tresiba ▼ 100 units/mL 	Penfill cartridge FlexTouch pre-filled pen	
	Tresiba ▼ 200 units/mL 	FlexTouch pre-filled pen	Higher strength insulin
Insulin lispro	Humalog 100 units/mL 	Vial Cartridge KwikPen pre-filled pen	
	Humalog 200 units/mL 	KwikPen pre-filled pen	Higher strength insulin
Insulin glargine (Biosimilar)	Lantus 100 units/mL 	Vial Cartridge SoloStar pre-filled pen	Not dose equivalent to other brands of same strength.
	Toujeo 300 units/mL 	SoloStar pre-filled pen	Not dose equivalent; higher strength
	Abasaglar ▼ 100 units/mL 	Cartridge KwikPen pre-filled pen	Not dose equivalent to other brands of same strength.
Insulin degludec and liraglutide	Xultophy ▼ 100 units/mL of insulin degludec and 3.6mg/ml of liraglutide 	Prefilled pen	Insulin in fixed combination with liraglutide (First product to combine insulin with other injectable treatment)

- Patients admitted on higher strength insulin must be referred to the diabetic nurse team
- Higher strength insulins are only available as pre-filled pens and must NEVER be drawn up and administered using an insulin syringe as this will lead to an overdose of insulin.

FOR ACTION: Please ensure ALL STAFF are aware of this information and that it is displayed where staff are able to access and read it, to ensure that newer insulin products are prescribed and administered safely.