

8th November 2022

NovoRapid[®] FlexPen 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens - Shortage

Shortage information

A shortage of NovoRapid[®] FlexPen 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens has been identified. A resupply date of 21st November has been provided.

Prescribing in NHS Grampian (ePrescribed Aug2022 – Nov2022, run 07/11/22)

1238 patients have been identified as being prescribed NovoRapid[®] FlexPens.

Formulary status

NovoRapid[®] (vial, cartridge and pre-filled pens) are included in the [Grampian Area Formulary](#).

Actions for primary care

- For some patient's, personal stock as well as stock within the community pharmacy network may mean that no change to prescribing is required. No proactive switching should be undertaken and stock information should be ascertained prior to undertaking a change in prescribing.
- Where a patient has insufficient supplies to cover the duration of the shortage, each patient should be considered individually and advice from an appropriate specialist should be sought if necessary.
- Where a change to prescribed formulation is necessary, steps should be taken to ensure that appropriate counselling/training is provided to the patient/carer.

Actions for community pharmacy

- Where residual stocks remain within the community pharmacy network, pharmacy teams are requested to consult with patients/carers regarding when this medication is required and either holding back or part-fulfilling necessary prescriptions to ensure preservation of stocks.
- Where prescriptions for NovoRapid are unable to be fulfilled, communicate proactively with the patient/carer to understand when the prescribed medication will be required. If the date medication is required is prior to recovery of stock, communicate with the patient's GP practice without delay to highlight need for alternative prescribing.
- Guidance regarding an alternative insulin preparation should be provided by the patient's GP practice, as such community pharmacy should not prescribe an alternative formulation without appropriate clinical input.

Further information

- [Shortage of NovoRapid[®] FlexPen \(insulin aspart\) 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled disposable devices – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#)
- [Diabetes \(novonordisk.co.uk\)](http://novonordisk.co.uk)

Data information

Data provided is ePrescribed (Aug2022 – Nov2022, run 071122)

The data provides prescribing information. It does not confirm that the prescription has been dispensed by community pharmacy or collected by the patient.

The data only captures electronic prescribing information – any handwritten prescriptions will not be included.