



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2023/057

Insulin isophane biphasic human 25/75 (Insuman[®] Comb 25) 100units/ml suspension for injection 3ml cartridge and pre-filled Solostar pens

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 06/06/2023

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Insuman[®] Comb 25 100units/ml suspension for injection 3ml cartridges and prefilled pens will be discontinued with stocks being exhausted in February and June 2023 respectively.
- Humulin[®] M3 remains available, as do other biphasic insulin preparations, and the manufacturers can support a full uplift in supply.

Actions Required

Prescribers should:

- not initiate any new patients on Insuman[®] products
- review all patients prescribed Insuman[®] Comb 25 100units/ml suspension for injection 3ml cartridges; and consider prescribing Humulin M3 in the first instance (see Clinical Information)
- consider prescribing another biphasic insulin preparation if the above option is not deemed suitable (see Clinical Information)
- ensure that after switching, patients are counselled on new dose regimen and how to use the new device, as well as explaining further adjustments may be needed depending on blood glucose levels and signs of hypoglycaemia

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Choice of alternative will be determined by onset of action, peak activity and duration of action. Patients should be advised to be more vigilant with checking their blood glucose following a switch to an alternative. Patients should also be counselled on the symptoms of hypoglycaemia.

Following specialist input, it is advised that patients switched from Insuman Comb 25 to Humulin M3 should have their dose reduced by 10% when commenced on Humulin M3 and glucose levels reviewed at two weeks to consider further dose titration. As the injector device will also be different, patients should be counselled on how to use the new device.

Insuman Comb 25

*Classification of Tiers can be found at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/a-guide-to-managing-medicines-supply-and-shortages/>

Insuman Comb 25 is a biphasic isophane insulin consisting of 25% dissolved insulin and 75% crystalline protamine insulin. Humulin M3 (30% soluble insulin and 70% isophane insulin) is available as a Kwikpen, a disposable pre-filled pen containing 3ml (100units/ml) of insulin and also in a 3ml cartridge for use in a Lilly 3ml pen. Insuman Comb 25 is injected subcutaneously 30 to 45 minutes before a meal and Humulin M3 30 minutes before a meal.

Other biphasic insulin preparations include Humalog® Mix 50, Humalog® Mix 25 and NovoMix® 30 (insulin aspart)

Please refer to MSN/2023/020U for other Insuman® products that are being discontinued.

Enquiries

If you have any queries, please contact DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.