



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2024/008

Lantus® Solostar® (insulin glargine) 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 23/01/2024

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Lantus® (insulin glargine) Solostar® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens will be in limited supply from the end of January 2024 - resupply dates are to be confirmed.
- Abasaglar® (insulin glargine) KwikPen® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens remain available and can support increased demand.
- Lantus® (insulin glargine) 100units/ml solution for injection 10ml vials and 3ml cartridges remain available but cannot support uplifts in demand.

Actions Required

Prescribers should:

- not initiate new patients on Lantus® SoloStar® 100units/ml pre-filled pens until the supply issue is resolved;
- consider prescribing Abasaglar® KwikPen® 100units/ml pre-filled pens, and follow MHRA advice on minimising the risk of medication errors with use of biosimilar insulin products (see Supporting Information);
- reassure patients they are receiving a biosimilar insulin but in a different pen, signpost them to instructions for use, and advise them to monitor blood glucose more closely after the switch to ensure good control is maintained (see Supporting Information); and
- if the above options are not considered appropriate, seek advice from specialist diabetes teams on management options.

Pharmacy teams dispensing Abasaglar® KwikPen should counsel patients on how to use the new pen and provide them with/signpost to instructions for use, as well as reiterating the need for closer monitoring of blood glucose initially.

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Lantus® (insulin glargine) solution for injection is available in a Solostar® pre-filled pen, cartridges and vials. Abasaglar® is a biosimilar medicine based on insulin glargine. Therapeutic indications, dosing regimen and strength of Abasaglar® are the same as for Lantus®. Abasaglar® Kwikpen® solution for injection is available in a pre-filled pen and in cartridges.

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

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

[An MHRA Drug Safety Update](#) advises that although Abasaglar® has been shown to be equivalent to Lantus® in its pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic properties, as with other biosimilar medicines, dose adjustments may be needed for some patients.

Diabetes UK recommends that if people with diabetes switch to a biosimilar insulin, they should be encouraged and supported to monitor their blood glucose more closely to ensure that good control is maintained.

Links for further information

- [SmPC – Lantus® SoloStar 100units/ml prefilled pens](#)
- [SmPC – Abasaglar® KwikPen 100units/ml prefilled pens](#)
- [Instructions for use - Abasaglar® KwikPen 100unit/ml prefilled pen](#)
- [BNF – Insulin glargine](#)
- [BNF – Insulin Treatment summary](#)
- [Diabetes UK – Biosimilar insulins](#)
- [MHRA- High strength, fixed combination and biosimilar insulin products: minimising the risk of medication error](#)

Enquiries

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