



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2022/067

Insulin isophane biphasic human 50/50 (Insuman[®] Comb 50) 100units/ml suspension for injection 3ml cartridge

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 08/08/2022

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Insuman[®] Comb 50 100units/ml suspension for injection 3ml cartridges has been discontinued with stocks being exhausted imminently.
- Humalog[®] Mix 50 remains available, as do other biphasic insulin preparations, and the manufacturers can support a full uplift in supply.

Actions Required

Where patients are receiving treatment with Insuman[®] Comb 50 100units/ml suspension for injection 3ml cartridges, prescribers should:

- not initiate any new patients on Insuman[®] Comb 50 100units/ml suspension for injection 3ml cartridges;
- review all patients prescribed Insuman[®] Comb 50 100units/ml suspension for injection 3ml cartridges; and consider prescribing Humalog[®] Mix 50 in the first instance (see Supporting Information);
- ensure that after switching, patients are counselled on how to use the new device, explain that the dose of insulin remains the same, but adjustments may be needed depending on blood glucose levels and signs of hypoglycaemia,
- consider prescribing another biphasic insulin preparation if the above option is not deemed suitable (see Supporting Information)

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Insuman[®] Comb 50 is a biphasic isophane insulin consisting of 50% dissolved insulin and 50% crystalline protamine insulin.

The only other biphasic formulation containing equal proportions of rapid- and long-acting insulin is Humalog[®] Mix50 (50 % insulin lispro solution and 50 % insulin lispro protamine suspension). It is available in a KwikPen, a disposable pre-filled pen containing 3 ml (300 units, 100 units/ml) of insulin and also in a 3ml cartridge for use in a Lilly 3 ml pen. There is unlikely to be any dose change when switching between biphasic insulins. However, after a switch, the dose should be guided by blood glucose control and signs of hypoglycaemia.

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

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

Other human biphasic insulin preparation containing different proportions of rapid- and long-acting insulin include Insuman® Comb 25, Humalog® Mix 25, Humulin® M3 and NovoMix® 30 (insulin aspart).

Please see the following links for further information:

- [SmPC - Insuman Comb 50 100 IU/ml suspension for injection in a cartridge](#)
- [SmPC - Humalog Mix50 100 units/ml suspension for injection in cartridge](#)
- [BNF treatment summary - insulin](#)
- [BNF - Biphasic isophane insulin](#)
- [University of Leicester table of typical insulin profiles](#)
- [SmPC - HUMULIN M3 KwikPen \(Mixture 3\) 100IU/ml suspension for injection](#)
- [SmPC - Insuman Comb 25 SoloStar 100 IU/ml suspension for injection in a pre filled pen](#)
- [SmPC - NovoMix 30 Penfill 100 units/ml \(Flexpen & cartridge\)](#)
- [SmPC - Humalog Mix25 100 units/ml KwikPen, suspension for injection in a pre-filled pen \(cartridge, pre-filled pen\)](#)

Enquiries

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