

DISRUPTION TO SUPPLY OF TRESIBA® FLEXTOUCH® (Insulin degludec) 100units/ml 3mL PENS.

When: From August 2023

For how long: Disruption is expected to last until December 2024

Why: Disruption to plastic supply used for FlexTouch® pens

Actions: During this time, **NO NEW patients should be initiated** on Tresiba® FlexTouch® 100units/ml pens. If Tresiba is considered the most suitable insulin patients should be initiated on Tresiba® Penfill® 3mL cartridges and NovoPen® 6.

6. Note: There is no impact to supply of Tresiba® FlexTouch® 200units/ml pens

The actions below only apply to existing patients who run out of Tresiba FlexTouch® 100units/ml 3mL during this time.



Figure 1: Tresiba® 100 units/ml FlexTouch® Pen

Options (depending on patient preference):

- Switch to Tresiba® Penfill® 3mL cartridges with a NovoPen® 6 (reusable pen device). These are available and can support an uplift in demand – see advice below.
- Switch to an alternative insulin if the above option is not considered suitable – see advice below, this may require discussion with a specialist diabetes team.



Figure 2: Tresiba® Penfill® 3ml cartridges and NovoPen® 6

If switching to Tresiba® Penfill® 3ml cartridges:

Issue a prescription for Tresiba® Penfill® 3mL cartridges and two NovoPen® 6 reusable pens. Patients may be issued with two pens, so they have a spare available. The repeat prescription template should be updated to reflect this change. Note the NovoPen® 6 should last for around 5 years before needing to be replaced. NovoNordisk have temporarily reduced the cost of Tresiba® Penfill® cartridges for the duration of the supply shortage with FlexTouch® pens to offset the cost of supplying the NovoPen® 6 on prescription.

Ensure that all patients initiated on a new device are counselled on the change in device, and provided with training on their use, including signposting to training videos, as well as potential need for closer monitoring of blood glucose levels. Training videos and further information can be found from the links below:

- [Smart insulin pens – JDRF, the type 1 diabetes charity](#)
- [NovoPen® 6 User Guide](#)
- [NovoNordisk® Smart Pens](#)
- [NovoNordisk® Quick Guide to using NovoPen® 6](#)

We would encourage patients to switch to the above option permanently as it offers environmental benefits.

If switching to an alternative insulin:

- Patients should be switched to another long-acting analogue insulin. Options include Semglee® (insulin Glargine 100units/mL), Tresiba® 200 units/mL FlexTouch® pen or Toujeo® (Insulin Glargine 300units/ml) SoloStar **at the same dose and frequency**.
- If switching to **Tresiba® 200 units/mL FlexTouch® pen** **do not convert (i.e., recalculate) the dose** as the Tresiba® FlexTouch® pen delivery device shows the number of units of insulin to be injected irrespective of strength.

Ensure that all patients initiated on a new insulin are counselled on the change in insulin and device, and provided with training on their use, including signposting to other resources, as well as potential need for closer monitoring of blood glucose levels.