

Prescribing Hot Topics



Temporary shortage of Insuman[®] Insulins

Due to limited manufacturing capacity, there is a likelihood of **temporary shortages of Insuman[®] Basal and Insuman[®] Comb 25 human insulin presentations. Supplies are expected to return to normal by July 2016.** Across the East Lancashire Health Economy, a number of patients are currently prescribed Insuman[®] Comb 25.

Local diabetes experts have offered the following advice for practices:

- **No new patients should be started on Insuman products during the shortage**
- If Insuman[®] Comb 25 supply problems are encountered, **patients should be switched to Humulin M3[®] via Kwikpen with an initial dose reduction of 10% for safety (if HbA1c >8.5% no dose adjustment should be necessary). Patients should be followed up 1 week post change and if BMs trending upwards (in those that had reduced dose) revert to previous dose.**
- **Patients who are switched to a different brand of insulin should be managed on an individual basis and closely monitored by their healthcare professional.** Where necessary the healthcare professional should provide training on how to use any new delivery device and advise the patient to closely monitor their blood glucose levels whilst they become familiar with the change of insulin, as well as during any subsequent titration of dose.
- **Consider contacting patients to ensure they have sufficient supplies for over the holiday period.**
- Patients should be provided with the relevant insulin safety card or ensure that their insulin passport is updated to indicate any changes to their therapy.

For advice on individual patients, please contact the Community Diabetes clinic on 01254 282708 or Dr A. Ali at amar.ali1@nhs.net.

DO NOT REFER ALL PATIENTS TO THE COMMUNITY DIABETES CLINIC AS THERE IS INSUFFICIENT CAPACITY

There is a likelihood of temporary shortages of Insuman[®] Basal and Insuman[®] Comb 25 human insulin presentations until July 2016

Patients prescribed Insuman[®] Comb 25 should be switched to Humulin M3[®] via Kwikpen with an initial dose reduction of 10% (see above)

Patients who are switched to a different brand of insulin should be managed on an individual basis and closely monitored by their healthcare professional