



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Health**

# Medication Safety Notification

4 February 2025

Discontinuation of multiple insulin products

Classification: Official



# Medication Safety Notification

4 February 2025

## Discontinuation of multiple insulin products

*This information has been distributed to provide advice to WA health professionals of potential safety issues. A risk assessment is required at a local level to determine the impact and relevance of this information and the response required.*

### Issue:

- Multiple insulin products are being discontinued from the global market by Novo Nordisk. This discontinuation will affect the Australian market, with stock of the affected products to be depleted over the next 2 years.
- For most of the insulin products being discontinued, alternative presentations will continue to be available.

### Background:

- The Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) has released a [web statement](#) regarding the upcoming changes to the supply of multiple insulin products and the availability of alternatives. The TGA will continue to inform patients and health care professionals about any changes to this situation through alerts and updates on their website.  
Refer to **Attachment 1** for a list of the insulin products being discontinued and available alternatives.
- Patients currently prescribed an insulin product due to be discontinued will need to be switched to an appropriate alternative insulin preparation. This may include switching patients to a different insulin type which continues to be available in a disposable prefilled device, or use of the same insulin administered via a cartridge loaded in a reusable pen (if available).
- The choice of alternative will be dependent on individual patient factors, and where necessary advice should be sought from the diabetes management team.
- The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care have developed clinician and consumer fact sheets to support health professionals with the transition requirements.  
Fact Sheet for clinicians: [Discontinuation of insulin products – strategies and safety considerations](#),  
[Discontinuation of Protaphane Innolet®- strategies and safety considerations](#)  
Fact Sheet for consumers: [Important changes for people who use insulin](#)
- [Consensus advice](#) has been prepared on behalf of the Australasian Diabetes In Pregnancy Society (ADIPS), Australian Diabetes Educators Association (ADEA), Australian Diabetes Society (ADS), Diabetes Australia (DA), and Society of Obstetrics Medicine Australia and New Zealand (SOMANZ) for health services and clinicians following the discontinuation of Novo Nordisk's Innolet (Protaphane insulin) Device.

### Safe use of cartridges/reusable pens

- For insulin products not available in a disposable pen/device, use a cartridge loaded into a reusable pen device for subcutaneous administration.
- When using an insulin cartridge in a reusable insulin pen, ensure:
  - the insulin cartridge is loaded into the reusable pen with the medicine name clearly visible through the 'window' of the delivery device.
  - engagement of the cartridge within the insulin pen when it is first loaded by priming appropriately.
  - the insulin cartridge is checked before each administration (without removing it from the reusable pen), to confirm it contains the correct insulin and it is within the expiry date.
  - the pen is primed by expelling 2 units of insulin (repeat until insulin is visibly expelled from the needle) prior to dialling up each required dose so that an accurate dose is delivered.
- Novo Nordisk cartridges are only to be used with reusable NovoPen® devices. Instructions on the use of NovoPen® devices can be found on the company website.

### Actions:

- Disseminate this notification to relevant clinicians and clinical departments where insulin is held, prescribed and administered.
- Table this notification at your local Medicine and Therapeutics Committee or equivalent.

*The information in this alert is provided in good faith for the purpose of identifying possible safety issues and risks to facilitate improvements in safety and quality of health care. While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the alert, no guarantee can be given that its contents are (1) free from error or omissions, or (2) current at the time you access it.*

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### Medicines and Technology Unit

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## Attachment 1: Discontinuation notice of Novo Nordisk insulin product presentations.

Information in this attachment is correct as of 4 February 2025. Please also refer to the [Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\) website](https://www.tga.gov.au) for further information. WA Health acknowledges and appreciates the sharing of the original content for this document that was developed by Fiona Stanley Hospital that was adapted for this table.

Discontinued product presentation	Anticipated date of discontinuation	Suggested alternative
<p><b>Mixtard<sup>®</sup> 30 InnoLet<sup>®</sup></b> <b>(insulin human/isophane insulin 30/70)</b></p>  <p>The image shows the packaging for Mixtard 30/70 InnoLet insulin. It includes a white box with an orange stripe at the top, labeled 'PRESCRIPTION ONLY MEDICINE' and '100 IU (units)/mL'. Below the box is a white InnoLet insulin pen with a dial showing 30 units.</p>	<p>October 2024</p>	<p><b>NovoMix<sup>®</sup> 30</b> (FlexPen<sup>®</sup> or Penfill<sup>®</sup>) – no dosage adjustment required.</p> <p>Note: There is a difference in time of onset of action between Mixtard 30 InnoLet<sup>®</sup> and NovoMix 30<sup>®</sup>. Patients would need to be advised to shift the timing of administration from approximately half an hour prior to the meal (Mixtard 30 InnoLet<sup>®</sup>) to immediately prior to the meal (NovoMix 30<sup>®</sup>).</p>  <p>The image shows a NovoMix 30 FlexPen insulin pen. It is a blue pen with a white dial and a white box behind it. The box is labeled '5x3 ml NovoMix 30 FlexPen 100 U/ml'.</p>

Discontinued product presentation	Anticipated date of discontinuation	Suggested alternative
<p><b>Mixtard® 30 Penfill®</b> (insulin human/isophane insulin 30/70)</p> 	<p>October 2024</p>	<p><b>NovoMix® 30 Penfill® + NovoPen®</b> – no dosage adjustment required. Note: There is a difference in time of onset of action between Mixtard 30® and NovoMix 30®. Patients would need to be advised to shift the timing of administration from approximately half an hour prior to the meal (Mixtard 30®) to immediately prior to the meal (NovoMix 30®).</p> 
<p><b>Fiasp® vials (fast acting insulin aspart)</b></p>  <p>Please Note: Fiasp® is not currently listed on the WA Statewide Medicines Formulary. An Individual Patient Approval from the hospital's Medicines and Therapeutics Committee is required if to be commenced during hospitalisation in a public hospital. This information has been provided for patients who have commenced Fiasp® prior to presenting to hospital to support ongoing care.</p>	<p>December 2024</p>	<p><b>Fiasp® Penfill®</b> – no dosage adjustment required.</p>  <p>OR</p> <p><b>Novorapid® (FlexPen® or Penfill®)</b> – no dosage adjustment required.</p> 

Discontinued product presentation	Anticipated date of discontinuation	Suggested alternative
<p><b>Protaphane<sup>®</sup> InnoLet<sup>®</sup> (isophane insulin human)</b></p>  <p>The image shows the packaging for Protaphane InnoLet insulin. On the left is a white box with a green top section. The text on the box includes 'PRESCRIPTION ONLY MEDICINE', 'KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN', '100 IU (units)/mL', 'Protaphane<sup>®</sup> InnoLet<sup>®</sup>', 'insulin (rps) 100 IU (units) per mL', 'suspension for injection s.c.', 'Contains 5 x InnoLet<sup>®</sup> 3 mL pen-filled pens.', 'For use with NovoPen<sup>®</sup> needles (a 0.2 length of 8 mm (not included) store at 2°C to 8°C (Refrigerate. Do not freeze) protect from light.', 'Directions: Read enclosed Consumer Medicine Information. Resuspend according to instructions. AUSTRALIAN REGISTERED PRODUCT No. 149633'. To the right of the box is a white InnoLet pen with a yellow dial. Below the box is a single white InnoLet pen.</p>	<p>February 2025</p>	<p>1. <b>Protaphane<sup>®</sup> Penfill<sup>®</sup> + NovoPen<sup>®</sup> – no dosage adjustment required.</b></p>  <p>The image shows the packaging for Protaphane Penfill insulin. On the left is a white box with a green top section. The text on the box includes 'PRESCRIPTION ONLY MEDICINE', 'KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN', '100 IU/mL', 'Protaphane<sup>®</sup> Penfill<sup>®</sup> 3 mL', 'insulin (rps) 100 IU (units) per mL', 'suspension for injection s.c.', 'Contents: 5 x Penfill<sup>®</sup> 3 mL cartridges.', 'For use with Novo Nordisk insulin delivery systems.', 'Store at 2°C to 8°C (Refrigerate. Do not freeze) protect from light.', 'Directions: Read enclosed Consumer Medicine Information. Resuspend according to instructions. AUSTRALIAN REGISTERED PRODUCT No. 149633'. To the right of the box is a blister pack containing five white Penfill cartridges. To the right of the blister pack is a blue NovoPen 3 insulin pen.</p> <p>2. <b>Humulin<sup>®</sup> NPH in a cartridge using a HumaPen reusable administration device.</b></p>  <p>The image shows the packaging for Humulin NPH insulin. On the left is a white box with a green top section. The text on the box includes 'PRESCRIPTION ONLY MEDICINE', 'KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN', 'Humulin<sup>®</sup> NPH', 'insulin 100 IU/mL', 'isophane - NPH human insulin (rbe) suspension', 'insulin suspension for subcutaneous injection with HumaPen<sup>®</sup>', '3 x 3 mL cartridges', 'AUSTRALIAN REGISTERED PRODUCT No. 149633'. To the right of the box is a blister pack containing three white Humulin NPH cartridges.</p>

Discontinued product presentation	Anticipated date of discontinuation	Suggested alternative Below are suggested substitutions. Consider individual circumstances and seek advice from an Endocrinologist if any uncertainty or concerns.
<p><b>Ryzodeg® FlexTouch®</b> (insulin degludec + insulin aspart 70/30)</p> 	February 2025	<p><b>Ryzodeg® Penfill® + NovoPen®</b> – no dosage adjustment required.</p> 
<p><b>Fiasp® FlexTouch® (fast acting insulin aspart)</b></p>  <p>Please Note: Fiasp® is not currently listed on the WA Statewide Medicines Formulary. An Individual Patient Approval from the hospital's Medicines and Therapeutics Committee is required if to be commenced during hospitalisation in a public hospital.</p> <p>This information has been provided for patients who have commenced Fiasp® prior to presenting to hospital to support ongoing care.</p>	June 2025	<p><b>Fiasp® Penfill® + NovoPen®</b> – no dosage adjustment required.</p>  <p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>Novorapid® (FlexPen® or Penfill®)</b> – no dosage adjustment required.</p> 

**NovoNordisk has also indicated that the following insulins will be discontinued as of December 2026**

**Protaphane Penfill (isophane (NPH) insulin human)**



**Levemir® Penfill® cartridge (Insulin detemir) Levemir® FlexPen® prefilled pen**



**Actrapid® Penfill® cartridge (Insulin neutral)**



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