Levemir® (Insulin Detemir) – Discontinuation guidance for SNEE

NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board

Key message:

Levemir® (insulin detemir) FlexPen® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens and Levemir® (insulin detemir) Penfill® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml cartridges are being discontinued; with stock expected to run out by end of 2026. All people with type 1 diabetes must remain on a background (basal) insulin, without disruption to supply, to prevent diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA). The patient's usual diabetes care team should action review and insulin switch as per the guidance below.

Actions for Community pharmacy: Support by highlighting the upcoming changes to any Levemir user and suggest they raise at their next planned review, with usual diabetes care team.

Actions for health professionals:

1. Do not start new patients on Levemir.
2. Identify current users of Levemir.
    - Run searches on your clinical system to generate a list of patients.
    - Prioritise review well before supply runs out.
3. Review and switch insulin (routine clinic or virtual review).

Switching guidance

When reviewing, check:

- Current Levemir dose (OD or BD).
- Total daily dose.
- Patient preference for regime (once daily OD vs twice daily BD injections).
- Make one change to insulin regime at a time.

Suggested alternative insulins:

First choice, **Semglee® (Glargine biosimilar) once daily, unless concerns then see below options:**

- OD option (current dose > 50 units total): **Toujeo® or Tresiba® once daily**
- BD option (flexibility needed, e.g. exercise): **Humulin I® twice daily.**
- Very low current dose (< 15 units total background): **Humulin I® once daily.**
- Other suitable alternatives (if above contraindicated): **Lantus® or Abasaglar® (OD or BD (BD is off licence use).**

See table below, if unsure, contact the local diabetes specialist team for advice and guidance.

Starting Dose

- Reduce Levemir total daily dose by 10–20% when switching.
    - Reduce by 20% if HbA1c < 53mmol/mol or frequent hypoglycaemia
    - Reduce by 10 % if HbA1c ≥ 53mmol/mol
    - Continue to monitor after transition

Safety netting

- *Provide insulin passport card or insulin patient leaflet where available*
- *Advise patients to be more vigilant in monitoring their glucose for the first few weeks of using the new insulin.*
- *Recap on appropriate treatment of hypoglycaemia.*
- *Recap basic sick day rules (when to test for ketones)*
- *Advise patient who to contact if concerns before next review*
- *signpost to Diabetes UK website*

Author: North East Essex Diabetes Services on Behalf of Suffolk & North East Essex ICB
Approved by: Suffolk & North East Essex IMOC Prescribing Committee; ESNEFT MGG, WSH DT Version 1 January 2026 Review date: January 2027

Ongoing Review

- Encourage patients (if able) to self-adjust background insulin every 3–7 days based on their glucose patterns.
- Support those unable to self-adjust with planned follow-up.
- Offer structured diabetes education to develop self-management skills.
- Refer to the specialist diabetes team if:
  - Patient is complex/high-risk, or
  - Meets referral criteria.

➢ *make a referral in in the usual way.*

Insulin type	Brand name and devices	Compatible re-usable cartridge pen device
Insulin glargine U100 (Long acting)	Abasaglar® (Kwikpen® / cartridges)	HumaPen Savvio®
	Lantus® (Solostar® / cartridges)	AllStar® PRO (1 unit increments) JuniorSTAR® (½ unit increments)
	Semglee® (pre-filled pens)	N/A
Insulin glargine U300 (Ultralong acting)	Toujeo® (Solostar® / Doublestar®)	N/A
Insulin degludec (Ultralong acting)	Tresiba® U100 (cartridges / *FlexTouch®*)** Tresiba® U200 (FlexTouch®)	NovoPen 6® (1 unit increments) NovoPen Echo Plus® (½ unit increments)
Human isophane insulin (intermediate acting) *NPH insulin*	Humulin I® (Kwikpen® / cartridges)	HumaPen Savvio®

**Please note: For up-to-date supply guidance, ensure you are referring to the initial medicines supply notification and subsequent updates via SPS Medicines Supply Tool. At the time of writing Tresiba® U100 FlexTouch® (prefilled pens) are not available as an alternative insulin option due to ongoing supply issues as outlined in the SPS tool.

Health professionals requiring further support to upskill in diabetes management or new to practice staff, please contact your local diabetes team for further information about HCP education and support available.

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