

**SEL Area Prescribing Committee**  
**Brand Prescribing of Insulin – Position Statement, March 2019**

<b>Reference:</b>	<b>PS-014</b>
<b>Intervention:</b>	<b>Brand prescribing of insulin</b>
<b>Date of Decision:</b>	<b>March 2019</b>
<b>Date of Issue:</b>	<b>March 2019</b>
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Prescribe all insulins by brand</b>
<b>Further Information:</b>	<p>1. A number of new insulins have been launched in the UK including biosimilar insulins, higher strength insulins and two insulins with the same generic name however with different release profiles. Prescribing insulin by brand should ensure that substitution of a biosimilar insulin or alternative insulin product does not occur when the medicine is dispensed by the pharmacist.</p> <p>2. Prescribing insulin by brand is recommended by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority (MHRA), Regional Medicines Optimisation Committee (RMOC), the London Procurement Partnership (LPP) and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Although prescribing insulin by brand will help to reduce the risk of errors, this does not take away the need for routine safe practice when prescribing and dispensing insulin. This includes, but is not limited to, checking with the patient at the point of prescribing and dispensing, the insulin used.</p> <p><b>Actions for prescribers:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For all new patients prescribed insulin, prescribers should prescribe insulin by the brand name.</li> <li>2. Review all patients who are prescribed insulin generically and amend prescriptions to the appropriate brand, confirming the current brand, for example with the patient.</li> </ol>
<b>Cost Impact for agreed patient group</b>	Changing from generic to brand prescribing of insulin will have no financial impact on prescribing budgets as there will be no change to the preparation dispensed for the patient, only the way it is written on the prescription.
<b>Usage Monitoring &amp; Impact Assessment</b>	<b>Acute Trusts:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor and submit usage and audit data to the APC on request.</li> </ul>
	<b>CCGs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor impact data and</li> <li>• Review any generic prescribing of insulin</li> </ul>

<b>Evidence Reviewed</b>	<b>Key references:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European Medicines Authority (2014) Summary of the risk management plan (RMP) for Abasaglar (insulin glargine)</li> <li>• Hooker N. (2015) London Medicines Evaluation Network Review – Answers to commonly asked questions about biosimilar versions of insulin glargine</li> <li>• Midlands Therapeutics Review and Advisory Committee (2015) Considerations for commissioners. Biosimilar insulin glargine (Abasaglar) for the treatment of type 1 and type 2 diabetes</li> <li>• National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2015) Evidence Summary: new medicine. Diabetes mellitus type 1 and type 2: insulin glargine biosimilar (Abasaglar)</li> <li>• United Kingdom Medicines Information (2015) In use product safety assessment report for Toujeo and Abasaglar (Insulin glargines)</li> <li>• Specialist Pharmacy Service: New Medicines Newsletter August 2017</li> <li>• Novo Nordisk Limited, 2018. Fiasp Summary of product characteristics. Accessed at <a href="http://www.medicines.org.uk">www.medicines.org.uk</a> on 18.10.18</li> <li>• Regional Medicines Optimisation Committee Insulin preparations. Safety factors for local formulary decision-making. Position Statement June 2018</li> <li>• Prescribing Outlook 2018 (updated August 2018). Accessed at October 2018</li> <li>• National Institute for Health and Care Excellence Key Therapeutic Topics: Safer insulin prescribing 2017 (updated 2018). Accessed at <a href="https://www.nice.org.uk/advice/ktt20">https://www.nice.org.uk/advice/ktt20</a> 18.10.18</li> <li>• London Procurement Partnership – Insulin prescribing safety web page. Accessed at <a href="http://www.lpp.nhs.uk">www.lpp.nhs.uk</a> on 18.10.18</li> <li>• London Procurement Partnership diabetes dashboard. Accessed at <a href="http://www.lpp.nhs.uk">www.lpp.nhs.uk</a> on 18.10.18</li> </ul>
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**NOTES:**

- a) Area Prescribing Committee recommendations, position statements and minutes are available publicly via the [APC website](#).
- b) This Area Prescribing Committee position statement has been made on the cost effectiveness, patient outcome and safety data available at the time. The position statement will be subject to review if new data becomes available, costs are higher than expected or new NICE guidelines or technology appraisals are issued.
- c) **Not to be used for commercial or marketing purposes. Strictly for use within the NHS.**