

## Levemir® switch- Frequently asked questions

**1) Why is Levemir® no longer available**

Novo Nordisk is the only company that produce Levemir®. Novo Nordisk will be discontinuing Levemir® production in December 2026. This is a worldwide issue and after this date Levemir® will no longer be available. It is not just a problem that affects NHS Grampian and we are unable to change this situation.

**2) Is there a chance another company start making Levemir®?**

No other company is taking over production of Levemir® and therefore this insulin will no longer be available to anyone.

**3) If Levemir® is being discontinued in December 2026, why are we switching now?**

Approximately 1600 people are on Levemir® within NHS Grampian. To ensure there is adequate support, sufficient insulin supplies and time to deal with any issues we need to make the change to an alternative insulin over the coming year. Changing everyone towards the end of 2026 will not be possible.

**4) I am aware of other basal insulins not listed in the leaflet- can I use one of these?**

The basal insulins listed in the information sheet are the preferred choices in Grampian. Insulatard® is also being withdrawn. In terms of biosimilar glargine, Lantus® is the preferred choice within NHS Grampian. Other options include Semglee® and Abasagar®. Toujeo® is increased strength glargine (300units/ml) and is not routinely recommended in Grampian

**5) Humulin® I is an older insulin why have we started using this again?**

Humulin® I is the only basal insulin that last 12 hours and has a license for twice daily administration. Historically there were concerns with increased hypoglycaemia, however these studies were done prior to continuous glucose monitoring systems (CGMs). For many people hypoglycaemia may not be a problem. If there are concerns about hypoglycaemia Lantus® can be used twice daily off licence, this would usually be after a trial of once daily Lantus®.

**6) What is the best basal insulin for people with type 1 diabetes planning pregnancy?**

Humulin® I, Lantus® and Tresiba® can all be used in pregnancy. Optimising glycaemic control is key prior to pregnancy. Choosing a basal insulin that meets a person's needs is best to help with this. Some people find that the flexibility offered by twice daily basal insulin helps with this (Humulin® I or twice daily Lantus®)

**7) What about people in insulin pumps?**

Insulin pumps only use rapid acting insulin (e.g. Novorapid®, Humalog®, Apidra®) People on insulin pumps must however continue to have access to basal or background insulin that can be used in the event of pump failure. For most people using insulin pumps this will be Humulin® I. Alternatives would be Lantus® or Tresiba®

**8) Who can help with insulin adjustment levels after switching?**

People can contact their usual diabetes team or the diabetes specialist nurses on 01224559977 mon-Fri 0900-1300.

**9) When should the next diabetes review be after switching insulins?**

The interval for routine diabetes review should continue as standard. We would encourage people to make contact with their diabetes team in between appointments if there are any issues or further advice is needed.