

29th June 2023

To: All Clinicians

Cc: Community Pharmacy, Diabetes Specialist Teams.

From: Medicines Optimisation Team, Frimley ICB.

ReTresiba® (insulin degludec) FlexTouch 100 units/ml solution for injection (pre-filled pens)- unavailable from 1st August 2023 until January 2024.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued [a medicine supply notification](#) for Tresiba® (insulin degludec) *FlexTouch*® 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled pens. *FlexTouch*® 200 units/ml 3ml pre-filled pens remain in stock but supplies cannot support an increase in demand if patients are switched.

Tresiba® *Penfill* (Insulin degludec) 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml **cartridges** remain available and can support the increased demand.

Actions for primary care patients:

1. Identify patients using Tresiba® *FlexTouch*® pre-filled pens, a search may be found in Ardens> 2.15 Prescribing CAS Supply disruption (CAS Alerts)>Tresiba FlexTouch 100U on repeat-Out of stock-consider cartridges. Notify patient of the supply disruption and arrange a review.
 2. Review patients and prescribe Tresiba® 100 IU penfill 3ml cartridges, considering the patient's manual dexterity and ability to use the new device correctly. (If not suitable move to 7 below).
 3. Prescribe a NovoPen 6® or NovoPen Echo Plus® pen device x 2 (one to use and one as spare). There will be no additional cost to the NHS, the price of the pen and the penfill has been adjusted for cost neutrality with FlexTouch®.
- It should be noted that Tresiba® FlexTouch® U100 pens are calibrated to adjust the dose in 1 unit increments and:
- NovoPen 6® dials in 1 unit increments
 - NovoPen Echo Plus dials in ½ unit increments

Some patients may already use the penfill cartridges and a reusable NovoPen® device for their short/ rapid acting insulin, for these patients prescribe a different coloured device.

4. Counsel the patient on how to use the device, providing training on use as appropriate for the patient.
5. Share written information on using penfills with NovoPen 6®/ Echo Plus®:
<https://tinyurl.com/mr2bhbax>
6. If required prescribe formulary needles e.g. CareFine®, GlucoRx Carepoint® or Microdot Max®.

7. Consider use of an alternative insulin, seeking advice from the specialist diabetes team if required.

Actions for community care patients (i.e. community nursing team administering insulin)

1. BHFT and HCRG Care Group will be recommending very limited use of FlexTouch® 200 units/ml pre-filled pens, and on their recommendation, Tresiba 200IU FlexTouch® pre-filled pen may be prescribed for these patients. Please note there is very limited stock of the 200IU FlexTouch® pen and not enough to support switching; switching runs the risk of existing 200IU patients not being able to access their current insulin.

Insulin must never be extracted from penfill cartridges using a syringe (including an insulin syringe).

Read further information on MSN/2023/053 on the SPS website [here](#).

If practices would like further information including training on use of the NovoPen 6® and penfills, please contact, Jen Nicholas, Executive Diabetes Account Specialist, Injectables Novo Nordisk: jfsm@novonordisk.com