

Insulin Safety

Approved by medicines Management Committee March 2018

Until recently, all insulin was only available as 100 units per ml (u100). However, there are now a number of different strengths of insulin:

- 200 units per ml (u200) is double the concentration of 100 units per ml
- 300 units per ml (u300) is 3 times the concentration of 100 units per ml
- 500 units per ml (u500) is 5 times the concentration of 100 units per ml



Remember the 'RIGHTS'

- RIGHT patient
- RIGHT insulin (use brand) e.g. Humalog
- RIGHT device e.g. KwikPen
- RIGHT dose e.g. 40 units (write 'units' in full – never 'u' or 'IU')
- RIGHT time in relation to meal time(s) and/or bedtime
- RIGHT strength

Never use a syringe to draw up insulin from a pre-filled pen or cartridge

It could result in:

- **Insulin overdose** with higher strength insulin or if insulin syringes are not used – never event.
- **Damage to the pen device.**



Insulin Pen Needles

- Always use the correct insulin pen needle and never recap the needle to help avoid needle stick injury.
 - **Patients** – use standard needles. Never recap the needle. Patients must dispose of their own needles in a sharps bin.
 - **Staff** – use safety needle.
- Ensure your ward stocks standard pen needles and safety needles.
- Cascade information to all staff involved in insulin administration.



Ensure all staff are trained to use safety needles
(contact your local Glucohero, 0300 003 0120 or LEaD)

Further Information

- Store in-use pre-filled pens/cartridges at room temperature.
- Add 'Date opened...' to the product when removed from the fridge.