

Medication Safety Notice

No. SA 01/ 18 page 1 of 2

Issued by Medicines and Technology Programs, SA Health

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/medicationsafety



A patient **Safety Notice** strongly advises the implementation of particular recommendations or solutions to improve quality and safety.

We recommend you inform:

- General Managers
- Pharmacy Directors
- Medical Directors
- Clinical Directors
- Nursing/Midwifery Directors
- Endocrinology Departments
- Diabetes Educators
- Drug and Therapeutics Committees
- Medication Safety Committees
- Safety and Quality Units
- Clinical Governance

Contact details:

T: (08) 8204 1944

HealthMedicationSafety@sa.gov.au

Insulin safety - High strength insulin glargine 300 units/mL

Purpose

To raise awareness of the availability of a new high concentration insulin product and provide information relevant to safe use.

Background

Insulins are identified as high risk medicines:

- > Fatal incidents and significant near miss events have been reported nationally and internationally when patients have received incorrect doses of insulins including due to mix ups with high concentration insulins.

Toujeo® (insulin glargine 300 units/mL)

- > is a new high concentration insulin product , **three times** the concentration of standard insulin preparations (eg Lantus® 100 units/mL)
- > only available in a pre-filled disposable pen device (Toujeo SoloStar®), and not in vials
- > must **never** be drawn up into a standard 100 unit/ml insulin syringe
- > available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme from 01 April 2018
- > not currently listed on SA Health Medicines Formulary

Caution: insulin syringes cannot be used for high concentration products

- > Insulin syringes are calibrated for use with 100 units/ml insulin products. They **cannot** be used for higher concentration insulin products including Toujeo.
- > There are no insulin syringes calibrated for high concentration insulin products.

Action required by health professionals

- > be aware that insulins are high risk medicines
- > be aware of the availability of high concentration insulin glargine 300 units/mL (Toujeo) and the likelihood that patients prescribed this medicine may be admitted to hospital
- > ensure patients using a high concentration insulin at home have an individual plan developed to determine safe insulin management in hospital
- > **do not** use insulin syringes to administer high concentration insulins.

NOTE: a recommended approach for safely managing high strength insulins for hospital inpatients is being developed by SA Health with endocrinologists. Further advice will be provided shortly.

For additional advice and support contact your clinical pharmacist, credentialed diabetes educator and/or endocrinologist in a tertiary hospital.

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Toujeo SoloStar (insulin glargine 300 units/mL)



Lantus SoloStar (insulin glargine 100 units/mL)

Action required by SA Health services:

1. Disseminate this notice to all health professionals.

For further information, please email HealthMedicationSafety@sa.gov.au