



## Northern Health Insulin Update & Interim Insulin Glargine Plan *Effective October 11, 2018*

### Pharmacare Benefit Change: insulin glargine

- As of August 21<sup>st</sup> 2018, Pharmacare stopped LANTUS® new start coverage and started funding BASAGLAR® (biosimilar insulin glargine) for all new start type 1 diabetes patients and type 2 diabetes patients 17 years of age and older in the community.
- Patients already established on LANTUS® will still be covered at this time.

### Medication Safety Concerns:

- BASAGLAR® only comes in a prefilled KWIKPEN for administration. This differs from current acute care insulin products that are provided as VIALS for administration (unless patient brings in own medication).
- Do not share insulin pens. Sharing prefilled insulin pens between patients puts them at risk of blood-borne pathogens due to a backflow of blood into the insulin cartridge. Using a new needle does not change this risk.

**Key Safety Message: ONE PEN for ONE PATIENT only. Do not share insulin pens.**

### What do you need to know?

- In the interim, only LANTUS® brand vials will be stocked in Northern Health. **Why?** To ensure safe medication administration, staff education on insulin pens is required before stocking this product.
- At this time, staff can process insulin glargine orders as follows:
  - **Patients established** on BASAGLAR® or LANTUS® in community will continue on their prescribed brand in hospital.
    - Orders for BASAGLAR® will be provided as patient’s own medication (POM). If POM cannot be obtained, the prescriber will need to be contacted for a change to LANTUS®.
    - Orders for “insulin glargine” will need to be clarified as to desired or available brand.
  - **NEW patients** starting on insulin glargine in hospital will be provided LANTUS® (unless POM BASAGLAR® can be obtained). On discharge, patients will need to be prescribed BASAGLAR® for community coverage.
- BASAGLAR® and LANTUS® are biosimilar but are NOT considered automatically interchangeable. A prescriber order is required when changing brands. Switching between brands should be limited.
- Note: As staff education rolls out across the health authority, work will be done to provide BASAGLAR® in acute care. This product is also being brought forward at the provincial level.

### New Rapid Acting Insulin Therapeutic Interchange:

- **Coming in 2019**, insulin aspart orders will be interchanged to insulin lispro. This change will align with the implementation of the regional insulin order set. Stay tuned!

October 11, 2018 For the information of physicians, nurses and pharmacists PLEASE POST	Best Practice	✓	<b>For further information contact:</b> Jessica Brecknock *or* Gordon Harper Medication Use Management Pharmacists mumpharmacist@northernhealth.ca
	Drug Discontinuation		
	Medication Change		
	Formulary Changes	✓	