Ministry of Health
Drug Plan and Extended Benefits
2nd Floor, 3475 Albert Street
Regina, Canada S4S 6X6

February 27, 2023

Dear Health Care Providers:

RE: Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative – Biosimilar Insulin Coverage Reminders and Updates

This letter outlines updates and clarifications about the transition to biosimilar insulins.

Reminder: By April 30, 2023, individuals using **NOVORAPID** insulin or **LANTUS** insulin need to start using a **biosimilar** version to keep their coverage under the Saskatchewan Drug Plan. The table below outlines the available biosimilar options.

Insulin	Reference Biologic Brand and Formats	Biosimilar Insulin Brands and Formats	End of Transition Period
Insulin aspart 100 units/mL	**NOVORAPID** - Cartridge - Vial	**KIRSTY** - Pre-filled pen **TRURAPI** - Cartridge - Pre-filled pen	**April 30, 2023**
Insulin glargine 100 units/mL	**LANTUS** - Cartridge - Pre-filled pen - Vial	**BASAGLAR** - Cartridge - Pre-filled pen **SEMGLEE** - Pre-filled pen	**April 30, 2023**
IMPORTANT EXCEPTIONS: Coverage will continue to be available for the insulin/patients listed below until further notice. These patients will be notified if/when there is a change to their coverage.			
HUMALOG	The transition for **HUMALOG** is paused until further notice, until supply of the biosimilar (**ADMELOG**) has stabilized and demand can be met.		
Insulin Pump Users	Coverage of **NOVORAPID** and **HUMALOG** will continue to be available for patients who use vials for an insulin pump while the biosimilars undergo insulin pump certification, even if biosimilar(s) in a vial format are available.		
Vials for NOVORAPID and LANTUS	These vials will remain covered until biosimilar(s) in a vial format are listed on the Saskatchewan Formulary. However, patients may transition to another available biosimilar format (cartridge or pre-filled pen) if they wish.		

. . . 2

Patient Notification – Insulins:

- On February 22, 2023, the Saskatchewan Drug Plan issued letters to approximately 9,500 patients using NOVORAPID cartridges and/or LANTUS cartridges or pre-filled pens.
- This letter informs patients of the biosimilar options available to transition by the Saskatchewan Biosimilars Initiative deadline of April 30, 2023. Supporting information and handouts explaining how to transition to a biosimilar insulin were also included.
- Patients using NOVORAPID vials, LANTUS vials, and HUMALOG were not contacted in this mail-out as their coverage will continue until suitable biosimilar formats are available.

Pharmacists Supporting the Transition to Biosimilar Insulins:

- Patients can receive a prescription for the biosimilar insulin from their usual prescriber.
- Insulin can also be sold as a Schedule II drug without a prescription, and pharmacists can support patients to transition to a lower-cost biosimilar insulin.
- To guide pharmacists in transitioning patients to a biosimilar insulin without a prescription from a primary care or specialist prescriber, medSask has developed a Biosimilar Insulin Administrative Pharmacist Assessment Record (A-PAR). The A-PAR covers how to assess patients, select an appropriate biosimilar option, counsel the patient, notify a primary care or specialist prescriber, and follow up with patients.
- Please note: pharmacists must follow Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals standards for administrative prescribing or selling/recommending a Schedule II insulin.

Where to go for more information:

- Refer to the enclosed memo from the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals.
- Watch our Biosimilar Insulins in Saskatchewan Webinar, co-hosted by medSask and the Saskatchewan Drug Plan (35 minutes).
- Visit medSask's Biosimilars in Saskatchewan resource, which includes content for health care providers and patients: https://medsask.usask.ca/professional-practice/biosimilars.php.
- Visit our webpage: www.saskatchewan.ca/biosimilars.
- Contact sk.biosimilars@health.gov.sk.ca or call 1-800-667-2549 (306-787-8744), option 3.

Drug Plan and Extended Benefits

Enclosure