

AETNA BETTER HEALTH® OF PENNSYLVANIA AETNA BETTER HEALTH® KIDS

February 20, 2019

Formulary Changes Effective February 4, 2019 Rapid-Acting Insulin Products

Effective February 4, 2019, Aetna Better Health of Pennsylvania made changes to our drug formulary for the antidiabetic rapid-acting insulin drug class below:

- **Admelog (insulin lispro) will be the preferred rapid-acting insulin product and will be available as both a vial and a SoloStar pen**
 - The SoloStar pen and vial formulations will be preferred and have a \$0 copay
- **All other rapid-acting insulins will be non-preferred**
 - Humalog vial and KwikPen (insulin lispro) and Novolog vial and FlexPen (insulin aspart) will be removed from the formulary
 - Apidra (insulin glulisine) and Fiasp (insulin aspart) will remain non-formulary

All members and providers affected by these formulary changes will be notified by the health plan via mail. The clinical resources provided below can help prescribers understand the clinical rationale behind these changes and in transitioning members to available formulary alternatives.

CLINICAL RATIONALE

Admelog is FDA approved as a rapid-acting human insulin analog indicated to improve glycemic control in adults and pediatric patients 3 years and older with type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM) and adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM)

- Admelog is the first approved short-acting 'follow-on' mealtime insulin product. It is considered a "follow-on" brand to Humalog, similar to how Basaglar is considered a "follow-on" brand to Lantus.
- Since Admelog is not FDA approved as a generic, it cannot be automatically interchanged by the pharmacy without a new prescription from the provider

All rapid-acting insulin products have shown similar side effect profiles and produced comparable improvements in glycemic control

- All rapid-acting insulin products display similar pharmacokinetic characteristics and can be dosed at a 1:1 conversion ratio
- More frequent blood glucose monitoring is recommended when switching insulin products to prevent adverse reactions including hypoglycemia

REFERENCES

- Admelog [package insert]. Bridgewater, NJ; Sanofi-Aventis. December 2017.
- FDA approves Admelog, the first short-acting "follow-on" insulin product to treat diabetes. FDA. February 2018. *Another Insulin Lispro (Admelog) for Diabetes*. The Medical Letter. June 2018.
- Clinical Resource, Comparison of Insulins. Pharmacist's Letter/Prescriber's Letter. December 2017.

Dose comparison of rapid-acting injectable insulins for T1DM and T2DM in adult members

RAPID-ACTING INSULINS				
Insulin Product	How Supplied*	Recommended Dosing*	Pharmacokinetics*	Formulary Status
Admelog (insulin lispro)	100U/mL: 10 mL vial 3 mL SoloStar pen	Inject 2-4 times daily. Inject within 15 min before or immediately after a meal.	Onset: 10-30 min Duration: 3-5 hrs Peak time: 1/2-2 hrs	Preferred formulary agent. Vial and SoloStar pens available.
Humalog (insulin lispro)	100U/mL: 3, 10 mL vial 3 mL KwikPen 3 mL KwikPen Jr 3mL cartridge 200U/mL: 3 mL KwikPen	Inject 1-3 (or more) times daily. Inject within 15 min before or immediately after a meal.	Onset: 10-30 min Duration: 3-5 hrs Peak time: 1/2-2 hrs	Non-formulary; PA required
Novolog (insulin aspart)	100U/mL: 10 mL vial 3 mL FlexPen 3 mL cartridge	Inject 1-3 (or more) times daily. Inject within 5-10 min before a meal.	Onset: 10-30 min Duration: 3-5 hrs Peak time: 1-3 hrs	Non-formulary; PA required
Fiasp (insulin aspart + L-arginine and niacinamide for faster absorption)	100U/mL: 10 mL vial 3 mL FlexTouch pen	Inject 1-3 (or more) times daily. Inject at the start of a meal or within 20 min after starting.	Onset: 15-20 min Duration: 5-7 hrs Peak time: 90-130 min	Non-formulary; PA required
Apidra (insulin glulisine)	100U/mL: 10 mL vial 3 mL prefilled Pen	Inject within 15 min Inject 1-3 (or more) times daily. Inject before a meal or within 20 min after starting.	Onset: 10-30 min Duration: 3-5 hrs Peak time: 1/2-2 hrs	Non-formulary; PA required

**For the most complete and up to date information please refer to the FDA package insert T1DM (type 1 diabetes mellitus), T2DM (type 2 diabetes mellitus), U (unit), mL (milliliter), min (minute), hrs (hours), PA (prior authorization)*

REFERENCES

- Admelog [package insert]. Bridgewater, NJ; Sanofi-Aventis. December 2017.
- Humalog [package insert]. Indianapolis, IN: Eli Lilly and Company; 2017.
- Novolog [package insert]. Princeton, NJ; Novo Nordisk; March 2017.
- Fiasp [package insert]. Plainsboro, NJ; Novo Nordisk; September 2017.
- Apidra [package insert]. Kansas City, MO; Sanofi-Aventis; February 2015.
- Clinical Resource, Comparison of insulins. Pharmacist's Letter/Prescriber's Letter. December 2017.

Admelog Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- **What formulary changes are being made to the rapid acting insulin drug class?**
 - Effective February 4th, 2019, Admelog will be the preferred rapid acting insulin.
 - The Admelog SoloStar pen will be covered for members < 18 years of age
 - Admelog vials will be covered for adults
 - All other rapid acting insulins will require prior authorization.
- **What is Admelog, and how does it work?**
 - Admelog is a rapid-acting mealtime insulin that helps to control blood sugar. It is designed to mimic the body's natural insulin response to blood sugar spikes after meals. It does this by increasing the uptake of glucose by the skeletal muscle and fat and reducing the production of glucose by the liver.
 - Admelog should be taken 15 minutes before or immediately after a meal.
- **What is the active ingredient in Admelog?**
 - Admelog contains insulin lispro (100 units/mL), which is a synthetic insulin.
- **Is Admelog a generic version of insulin lispro?**
 - Admelog is an insulin lispro "follow-on" brand to Humalog. It is not FDA approved as a generic.
 - Since Admelog is not a generic, it cannot be substituted at the pharmacy without a new prescription.
- **How are Admelog and Humalog similar?**
 - Admelog and Humalog are both:
 - Rapid-acting mealtime insulins that help control blood sugar when a patient eats
 - Injected within 15 minutes before or immediately after a meal, and both help lower HbA1C and reduce spikes in blood glucose
 - Dosed in a 1:1 ratio, meaning that a patient should be on the same dose of either Admelog or Humalog
 - Stored at room temperature and are good for up to 28 days after the first use
- **What are the possible side effects of Admelog?**
 - The most common side effects with insulin lispro injections in clinical trials were hypoglycemia and allergic reactions, including injection site reactions, itching, rash, and skin thickening or pits at the injection site (lipodystrophy).
- **What are the options for administering Admelog in the body?**
 - Admelog is supplied as both a vial and a SoloStar prefilled disposable injection pen. It can be given as a subcutaneous injection, a subcutaneous infusion (e.g., with insulin pump), or as an IV infusion.
- **If a member uses the Admelog vial or SoloStar pen, where on the body should it be injected?**
 - Admelog can be injected in 4 areas on the body: anywhere in the stomach area (except for a 2-inch radius around the bellybutton), in the fatty tissue on the other back of the upper arm, in the thigh (away from the knee), or on the buttocks.
 - Rotate injection sites with each injection to avoid irritation on the body.

- **What types of needles should be prescribed for use with the SoloStar pen?**
 - Only needles that are compatible with Admelog SoloStar pens should be prescribed.
 - Needles from BD, such as BD Ultra-Fine, can be used. BD Ultra-Fine pen needles are covered on the Aetna Medicaid formulary.

REFERENCES

- Admelog [package insert]. Bridgewater, NJ; Sanofi-Aventis. December 2017.
- Humalog [package insert]. Indianapolis, IN: Eli Lilly and Company; 2017.
- About Admelog. Sanofi. August 2018. <https://www.admelog.com/about-admelog>.
- FDA approves Admelog, the first short-acting "follow-on" insulin product to treat diabetes. FDA. February 2018.