



MEMORANDUM

TO:	Community Pharmacies and PEI Pharmacists Association
FROM:	Department of Health and Wellness and Health PEI
DATE:	September 27, 2023
SUBJECT:	Reimbursement for Biosimilar Insulin Therapeutic Substitution

Important note: Public communication regarding the PEI Biosimilar Initiative will occur in Early October. Please consider this information confidential until such time that a public announcement is made.

In preparation for upcoming changes, therapeutic substitution of biosimilar insulins will be temporarily added to the Professional Service Reimbursement Framework effective Wednesday, **October 4, 2023**.

The PEI Biosimilar Initiative will require patients to use a biosimilar version of insulin where one is available to keep their coverage through PEI Pharmacare. The following insulin products are impacted by the switching initiative.

Drug	Originator	PEI Pharmacare Formulary Biosimilar*
Insulin aspart (100 Units/mL)	NovoRapid®	Kirsty™ Trurapi®
Insulin glargine (100 Units/mL)	Lantus®	Basaglar® Semglee®
Insulin lispro (100 Units/mL)	Humalog®	Admelog®

During the 9-month switching period, PEI Pharmacies will be reimbursed for a biosimilar insulin therapeutic substitution by a pharmacist (see table below for PDIN). Pharmacies are able to submit one fee for basal insulin switch and one fee for bolus insulin switch per patient. This fee should be claimed on the first dispense of a biosimilar insulin prescribed. Although a 9-month transition period is provided, patients are encouraged to switch to a biosimilar insulin at the time of their first fill during the switching period. Both the originator insulin and the biosimilar versions will be covered during the switching period to allow patients time to consult with their health care provider and complete the switching process. At the end of the switching period, the originator insulins **will no longer be covered by PEI Pharmacare**.

Some patients may require continued access to the originator insulin because their insulin pump has not yet been approved for use with the biosimilar version of their insulin. Coverage of the originator insulin will be extended beyond the end of the switching period if compatibility has not yet been confirmed. A Biosimilar Switching Exemption form will be available to identify those patients who require continued coverage of the originator insulin due to pump compatibility with the biosimilar. Health Canada guidance on insulin product and pump compatibility claims can be found [here](#). Additional information on biosimilar insulins and pump compatibility is provided below.

The launch of a website providing information about the PEI Biosimilar Initiative, as well as resources for patients and health care providers, will coincide with the public announcement about the initiative.



Biosimilar Insulin Therapeutic Substitution Fee

Reference Drugs	Non-reference drugs	Therapeutic Substitution PDIN
Basal biosimilar insulin	Basal originator insulin	93899739
Bolus biosimilar insulin	Bolus originator insulin	93899740
PEI Pharmacare will reimburse for “Therapeutic Substitution” where a drug from the “Non-Reference Drugs” list within a class/category is substituted for a drug from the “Reference Drugs” list within the same class/category by a pharmacist.		

Reimbursement rate – 1.3 x Dispensing Fee

(The dispensing fee refers to the maximum dispensing fee allowed as identified in the Pharmacy Services Agreement)

Each fee may be claimed **once for each eligible originator insulin** switched to a biosimilar per patient (i.e., one fee for basal insulin and one fee for bolus insulin) during the identified switching period.

The fee is reflective of the pharmacist:

- Explaining the biosimilar initiative to the patient
- Providing reassurance of the quality, safety, and effectiveness of their biosimilar insulin
- Conducting a therapeutic substitution from an originator insulin to a biosimilar insulin
- Answering questions and provide written materials if needed

To claim the fee:

- The pharmacist must be the prescriber **AND**
- The patient must be enrolled in the PEI Diabetes Drug Program

The fee **cannot** be claimed if:

- The prescription for the biosimilar insulin is written by another primary care provider
- Subsequent transitions are made to a different biosimilar insulin brand, or back-and-forth from the originator insulin to a biosimilar.

Details on adjudication and documentation requirements will be updated on the [Resources for Pharmacists](#) page of the HPEI Staff Resource Centre prior to the launch of the initiative.

References:

1. Diabetes Canada. *Appendix 6 - Types of Insulin*. (2018) <https://guidelines.diabetes.ca/cpg/appendices/appendix6> (accessed August 15, 2023)



Biosimilar Insulin Compatibility with Continuous Subcutaneous Insulin Infusion (CSII) device models covered by PEI Diabetes Program:**

- **Medtronic (MiniMed 630G, 670G, 770G, 780G)**
 - Compatible: Admelog®
 - Not Compatible: Kirsty®, Trurapi®
- **Omnipod (Omnipod® Insulin Management System, Omnipod DASH® Insulin Management System)**
 - Compatible: Admelog®
 - Not Compatible: Kirsty®, Trurapi®
- **Tandem (t:slim X2 insulin pump)**
 - Compatible: Admelog®
 - Not Compatible: Kirsty®, Trurapi®

References:

1. *Insulin Pump Therapy*. Alberta Health Services and the Cumming School of Medicine. <https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/resources/endocrinology-metabolism/patients-and-family/diabetes/insulin-pump-therapy#biosimilar-insulins> (accessed July 24, 2023)
2. Medtronic. Canada Patient Letter Admelog and Extended infusion sets. Nov 2022. (Letter on file).
3. Medtronic. Canada Patient Letter Admelog and Extended infusion sets. May 2023. (Letter on file).
4. *Important safety information | Insulin Pump therapy | OmniPod*. <https://www.omnipod.com/en-ca/safety> (accessed July 24, 2023)
5. *t:slim X2 Insulin Pump | Type 1 Diabetes Insulin Pump | Tandem Diabetes Care*. (2023). Tandem Diabetes. <https://www.tandemdiabetes.com/en-ca/products/t-slim-x2-insulin-pump> (accessed July 24, 2023)

**** Information current at time of memo release. Please contact pump or insulin manufacturers for anticipated updates on compatibility or for pumps not covered by the PEI Diabetes Program.**