

Needles for Pre-filled and Reusable Pens

KEY MESSAGE: Use cost effective needle choices

- The CCGs in Norfolk & Waveney spend approx. **£684,000** per year on pen needles for insulin administration ¹
- The most cost effective brands are currently *Neon Verifine, PROfine, HaemoFine, BD Viva, Mylife Penfine Classic, GlucoRx Finepoint, Microdot Droplet, Omnican Fine, Tricare, Glucoject and Insupen* ² - see cost comparison table overleaf.
- For adults there is no clinical reason for recommending needles longer than 8mm ³
- **4, 5 and 6mm** needles are suitable for all people regardless of BMI; they may not require a lifted skin fold and can be given at 90 degrees to the skin.
- For children and adolescents there is no clinical reason for using needles longer than 6mm.
- Using needles of shorter length (**6mm or less**) helps to prevent inadvertent IM injection of insulin.
- IM injection of all human insulin should be avoided as unpredictable blood glucose levels and severe hypoglycaemia can result.
- If leakage of insulin occurs with shorter needles, injection technique should be reviewed. The individual should count slowly to 10 seconds before withdrawing the needle. If doses of more than 60 units are to be given, the dose could be split and given at different sites.
- All needles are for single use only.

Safe Disposal and Safety Needle Devices

- Ensure patients are educated about the **safe disposal of needles via a sharps bin.**
- Sharps bins can be prescribed on FP10
- Sharpsguard yellow 1litre / Sharpsafe yellow 1 litre are suitable for insulin needles (and lancets)
- Patients should return full sharps bins to the prescribing GP practice. Practice staff should not handle these. They should allow the patient to put these into the larger practice sharps bin.
- Safety needles: BD AutoShield, NovoFine Autocover, Mylife Clickfine AutoProtect are expensive and **should not be prescribed on FP10** ⁴. Current annual spend across Norfolk and Waveney on safety needles is **£30,300**. Any GPs who receive requests to prescribe these should contact their Prescribing Advisor for advice unless for the following **exceptional use**:
 - For patients whose insulin is administered by a non-professional healthcare worker, e.g. carer, **AND** who is known to have a blood born virus e.g. HIV, hepatitis, **OR** who is known to be aggressive.

References:

1. epact.net http://194.101.1.34/systems/sys_main_epact.htm
2. The Electronic Drug Tariff http://www.ppa.org.uk/ppa/edt_intro.htm
3. The First UK Injection Technique Recommendations 2nd edition. The Forum for Injection Technique (FIT) October 2011
4. NHS Norfolk and Waveney 'Drugs of Low Priority' DROP List http://nww.knowledgeanglia.nhs.uk/prescribing_nhsn/drop_list_nhsnw.pdf

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| | Cost effective choice / preferred size |
| | Expensive choice |
| | Not to be prescribed |
| | Needles greater than 6mm are not recommended |

| Appliance | Size/Weight | Cost/100 | Compatible pens |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--|
| Neon Verifine Ultra | 4mm/32 gauge | £4.50 | |
| Neon Verifine | 4mm/31 gauge | £4.50 | |
| | 5mm/31 gauge | £4.50 | |
| | 6mm/31 gauge | £4.50 | |
| PROFine | 4mm/32 gauge | £4.95 | Universal fitting compatible w ith all major insulin pen injectors on the market http://prosummedical.co.uk/assets/prosum-14-profine-pen-needle---201601--w eb.pdf |
| | 5mm/31 gauge | £4.95 | |
| | 6mm/31 gauge | £4.95 | |
| HaemoFine | 4mm/32 gauge | £5.35 | |
| | 5mm/31 gauge | £5.35 | |
| | 5mm/32 gauge | £5.35 | |
| | 6mm/31 gauge | £5.35 | |
| BD Viva (Pack of 90) | 4mm/32 gauge | £5.36 | Compatible w ith all pens |
| | 5mm/31 gauge | £5.36 | |
| MyLife Penfine Classic | 4mm/32 gauge | £5.94 | Fits all major brands of injection pens http://w w w .mylife-diabetescare.co.uk/mylife-penfine-classic-overview .html |
| | 6mm/32 gauge | £5.94 | |
| GlucorX Finepoint Ultra | 4mm/32 gauge | £5.95 | Universal fit on all leading insulin pen delivery devices including Eli Lilly®, Novo Nordisk AS®, Becton Dickinson®, Ow en Mumford® and Sanofi®. http://w w w .glucorx.co.uk/products/glucorx-finepoint-pen-neededles/ |
| GlucorX Finepoint | 4mm/31 gauge | £5.95 | |
| | 5mm/31 gauge | £5.95 | |
| | 6mm/31 gauge | £5.95 | |
| Omnican Fine | 4mm/31 gauge | £5.95 | All brands http://w w w .bbraun.com/cps/rde/xchg/bbraun-com/hs.xsl/products.html?prid=PRID00000124 |
| | 6mm/31 gauge | £5.95 | |
| Microdot Droplet (formerly Droplet) | 4mm/32 gauge | £5.95 | Universal application - compatible w ith type A pens http://htl-strefa.pl/en/products/pen-neededles |
| | 6mm/31 gauge | £5.95 | |
| TriCare | 4mm/32 gauge | £5.36 | Fits all major brands of injection pens, including those from Novo Nordisk, Sanofi, Eli Lilly and Ow en Mumford. http://tricare.info/compatibility.htm |
| | 5mm/31 gauge | £5.36 | |
| | 6mm/31 gauge | £5.36 | |
| Glucoject | 4mm/32 gauge | £5.95 | Universally compatible w ith ALL major insulin pens. http://w w w .glucomen.co.uk/glucoject-pen-neededles/ |
| | 5mm/31 gauge | £5.95 | |
| | 6mm/31 gauge | £5.95 | |
| Insupen | 4mm/32 gauge | £5.95 | Suited to all insulin therapy types http://w w w .domrexpharma.com/index.php?id=93 |
| | 5mm/31 gauge | £5.95 | |
| | 6mm/31 gauge | £5.95 | |
| | 6mm/32 gauge | £5.95 | |
| | 4mm/33 gauge | £12.69 | |
| NeedleBay Fine Pen Needles | 4mm/32 gauge | £6.95 | Safe needle handling and storage system. Suitable for all popular types of insulin pen needles https://shop.diabetes.org.uk/usr/downloads/needle%20bay.pdf |
| | 5mm/31 gauge | £6.95 | |
| BD Micro-Fine Ultra | 4mm/32 gauge | £9.69 | All brands http://w w w .bd.com/uk/diabetes/page.aspx?cat=14153&id=31459 |
| BD Micro-Fine+ | 5mm/31 gauge | £9.69 | |
| CarePoint (formerly Comfort Point) | 4mm/31 gauge | £9.95 | All brands http://w w w .diabetes.co.uk/insulin/insulin-pen-neededles.html |
| | 5mm/31 gauge | £9.95 | |
| | 6mm/31 gauge | £9.95 | |
| IME-FINE | 6mm/31 gauge | £11.20 | All major brands http://w w w .diabetes.co.uk/insulin/insulin-pen-neededles.html |
| Unifine Pentips | 4mm/32 gauge | £11.75 | All major brands http://w w w .ow enmumford.com/us/range/30/unifine-pentips.html |
| | 5mm/31 gauge | £12.00 | |
| | 6mm/31 gauge | £11.75 | |
| Nanopass | 4mm/32.5 gauge | £7.60 | |
| | 6mm/32.5 gauge | £7.60 | |
| MyLife Clickfine (formerly Penfine) | 4mm/32 gauge | £12.32 | All major brands http://w w w .bd.com/uk/diabetes/page.aspx?cat=14153&id=31459 |
| | 6mm/31 gauge | £12.84 | |
| NovoTwist | 5mm/32 gauge | £12.99 | FlexPen® NovoPen® 4 NovoPen Echo® |
| NovoFine | 6mm/31 gauge | £13.02 | Recommended w ith novo nordisk pens FlexTouch® FlexPen® NovoPen® 3 |
| Safety needles | | | |
| Neon Verifine Safety | 5mm/31 gauge | £14.89 | |
| MyLife Clickfine AutoProtect | 5mm/31 gauge | £19.00 | All major brands http://w w w .bd.com/uk/diabetes/page.aspx?cat=14153&id=31459 |
| NovoFine Autocover | 8mm/30 gauge | £22.28 | All major brands |
| BD AutoShield Duo | 5mm/30 gauge | £30.08 | All brands http://w w w .bd.com/uk/diabetes/page.aspx?cat=14153&id=31459 |
| Needle and Remover | | | |
| Unifine Pentips Plus | 4mm/32 gauge | £5.95 | All major brands http://w w w .ow enmumford.com/us/range/30/unifine-pentips.html |
| | 5mm/31 gauge | £5.95 | |
| | 6mm/31 gauge | £5.95 | |
| | 8mm/31 gauge | £5.95 | |
| | 12mm/29 gauge | £5.95 | |
| Issued: Dec 16 Review Date: Dec 17 | | Drug Tariff Dec 16 | http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/4940.aspx |

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| Title | KEY MESSAGES Bulletin - Needles for Pre-filled and Reusable Pen Injectors |
| Description of policy | <i>To inform healthcare professionals</i> |
| Scope | <i>Prescribing information relating to the prescribing of Needles for Pre-filled and Reusable Pen Injectors</i> |
| Prepared by | Prescribing & Medicines Management Team (LS) & Specialist Diabetes Nurse (JW) |
| Evidence base / Legislation | Level of Evidence: <i>A. based on national research-based evidence and is considered best evidence</i> B. mix of national and local consensus <i>C. based on local good practice and consensus in the absence of national research based information</i> |
| Dissemination | Is there any reason why any part of this document should not be available on the public web site? Yes / No |
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