

Medication Safety Notice

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Issued by the Office of the Chief Pharmacist, SA Health
www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/medicationsafety



A patient **Safety Notice** strongly advises the implementation of particular recommendations or solutions to improve quality and safety.

We recommend you inform:

- General Managers
- Pharmacy Directors
- Medical Directors
- Clinical Directors
- Nursing Directors
- Drug and Therapeutics Committees
- Medication Safety Committees
- Safety and Quality Units
- Clinical Governance

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New Insulin aspart formulations - Fiasp and NovoRapid brand awareness and medication safety considerations

Purpose

- > To raise awareness of two different insulin aspart formulations now available on the [SA Medicines Formulary \(the Formulary\)](#): **Fiasp®** and **NovoRapid®**.
- > To highlight the importance of ongoing vigilance when prescribing, dispensing and administering insulins.

Background

- > Insulins are identified as high risk medicines.
- > Medication errors have been reported internationally, due to confusion between Fiasp and NovoRapid; different formulations of insulin aspart.
- > Fiasp has a faster onset of action than NovoRapid - a delay in food intake could result in hypoglycaemia.
- > **Fiasp and NovoRapid are not interchangeable.**

	Fiasp	NovoRapid
Active ingredient	insulin aspart	insulin aspart
Onset of action	Quicker onset; works within 5 – 15 minutes.	Works within 10 – 15 minutes.
Adult administration time	Inject at the start of a meal, or up to 20 minutes after starting it.	Inject 10 – 15 minutes before starting a meal.
Paediatric administration time	Give preferably within 2 minutes before meals, either via subcut injection or bolus within an insulin pump.	Give preferably no more than 5 minutes before meals, either via subcut injection or bolus within an insulin pump.
SA Medicines Formulary listing	As per PBS Criteria , but restricted to paediatric use on the Formulary.	As per PBS Criteria .

Recommendations

- > Note the differences in administration time with relation to meals, between Fiasp and NovoRapid.
- > Ensure all insulins are prescribed by both the active ingredient name and the brand name on all prescriptions, e.g. *insulin aspart (Fiasp) 100 units/mL injection*.

Action required by SA Health staff and services

1. Distribute this Safety Notice to clinicians to raise awareness of the different insulin aspart formulations and administration times relative to meals.
2. Conduct a risk assessment to identify and address risks relevant to your Local Health Network and/or site, which may include education plans for clinical staff.