

Insulin Aspart: Fiasp versus Novorapid



REPORT

- The Patient Safety Group was made aware of three separate incidents in which patients at a Children's Hospital had Insulin Aspart (Novorapid) dispensed instead of Insulin Aspart (Fiasp) which had been prescribed.
- These incidents occurred at three separate pharmacy businesses. As such action should be undertaken to raise awareness of the issue.

LEARN

- Insulin Aspart (Novorapid) and Insulin Aspart (Fiasp) are used to treat type 1 and type 2 Diabetes.
- Fiasp is a reformulated version of Insulin Aspart which includes Nicotinamide. It is absorbed faster by the body than Novorapid and has a shorter duration.
- The two products are not considered equivalent and are not interchangeable.
- Despite differences, the generic name is the same. This can result in some systems automatically selecting the first generic product alphabetically. The pharmacist is then required to manually select the correct product.
- This is further confused by similar packaging.

SHARE

- Details were shared with Medication Safety Officers (MSOs) at the Community Pharmacy Patient Safety Group meeting. MSOs will disseminate learnings via their networks.
- Details were published on the Pharmacy Safety website, and shared with key stakeholders.
- A resource was made available and shared back to the Hospital who raised the issue.

ACT

Possible actions could include:

- Communicating with colleagues that product are not interchangeable, and that continuity of brand should be maintained. This could be discussed as part of safety huddles.
- Placing warnings on the PMR system to remind colleagues to ensure the correct brand is selected and released.
- Checking with patients/ patients representative or prescriber to confirm the product dispensed was the expected medicine.
- Making patients are aware there are two versions of the products and asking them to check before using the product.

REVIEW

Members of the Patient Safety Group will review whether there have been any similar incidents within their organisations.