

Notice from the Executive Officer: Funding of Insulin Aspart and Insulin Glargine under the Ontario Drug Benefit Program

February 22, 2022

Trurapi (insulin aspart) and Basaglar (insulin glargine) are approved by Health Canada as biosimilars to NovoRapid (insulin aspart) and Lantus (insulin glargine), respectively. Funding of these products is being aligned with the funding of other biosimilars under the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program's new starts policy. Biosimilars have similar efficacy and safety as originator biologics and present an opportunity to achieve better value for money for biologic drugs that will help to support long-term sustainability and accessibility of Ontario's public drug programs.

Effective with the February 2022 Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Formulary update, changes to funding of insulin glargine and insulin aspart on the ODB Program will be as follows:

For Lantus:

- Basaglar is listed on the ODB Formulary/Comparative Drug Index (Formulary) as a General Benefit.
- Effective with the February 2022 Formulary update (effective **February 28, 2022**), changes to the funding status of some Lantus products will be as follows:
- Some Lantus products will be listed on the Formulary as a Limited Use (LU) benefit for the following indication:
 - Reason for Use (RFU) Code 614: For the treatment of diabetes mellitus for only those patients currently established on Lantus (insulin glargine) therapy.

LU authorization: indefinite.

For NovoRapid:

- Trurapi is listed on the ODB Formulary/Comparative Drug Index (Formulary) as a General Benefit.

- Effective with the February 2022 Formulary update (effective **February 28, 2022**), changes to the funding status of some NovoRapid products will be as follows:
- Some NovoRapid products will be listed on the Formulary as a Limited Use (LU) benefit for the following indication:
 - Reason for Use (RFU) Code 628: For the treatment of diabetes mellitus for only those patients currently established on NovoRapid (insulin aspart) therapy.

LU authorization: indefinite.

Please note that transition code RFU 279 will be activated for the affected Lantus and NovoRapid products to help transition patients to the new RFU code and criteria. This transition code may be submitted for a claim for a period of three (3) months after the change. It is expected that after three (3) months all patients with a prescription for affected Lantus or NovoRapid products have the correct RFU Code and meet the new clinical criteria. The transition code will be effective for three (3) months and deactivated with the May 2022 Formulary update.

Details of the changes to the funding of Lantus and NovoRapid will also be posted in the February 2022 Formulary update which can be found on the ministry's website at: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/edition_43.aspx

To further inform healthcare providers and patients, we have also included Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) documents for reference purposes.

Additional Information:

For pharmacies:

For billing inquiries, please call ODB Pharmacy Help Desk at: 1-800-668-6641

For all other Health Care Providers and the Public:

Please call ServiceOntario, Infoline at 1-866-532-3161 TTY 1-800-387-5559. In Toronto, TTY 416-327-4282