

## Insulin glargine Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the difference between Basaglar and Lantus?

Basaglar and Lantus are both insulin glargine products. Insulin glargine is an anti-diabetic medicine for the treatment of patients with diabetes. Basaglar is approved by Health Canada as a biosimilar to Lantus. Basaglar and Lantus are manufactured and marketed by different companies.

### 2. What is the funding status of Basaglar (insulin glargine)?

Basaglar is listed on the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary/Comparative Drug Index (Formulary) as a General Benefit.

### 3. What is the funding status of Lantus (insulin glargine)?

Effective with the February 2022 formulary update (effective **February 28, 2022**), there will be changes to the funding status of the following Lantus products:

**Table 1**

<b>DIN</b>	<b>Brand Name</b>	<b>Generic Name</b>	<b>Strength &amp; Dosage Form</b>	<b>MFR</b>
02294338	Lantus Solostar	insulin glargine	100U/mL Inj Sol-5x3mL Pk	Sanofi Aventis Pharma
02251930	Lantus	insulin glargine	100U/mL Inj Sol-5x3mL Pk (cartridge)	Sanofi Aventis Pharma

Changes will be as follows:

- The Lantus products in Table 1 will no longer be listed on the Formulary as General Benefits (GB)

- Affected 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 period: indefinite.

- New starts for the affected Lantus products will not be accepted. However, patients who have been established on Lantus can continue to receive Lantus.

#### **4. What is the rationale behind changing the funding status for insulin glargine?**

Basaglar was approved by Health Canada as a biosimilar to Lantus. These changes are aligned with the funding of other biosimilars under the Ontario Drug Benefit 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.

#### **5. How will these changes impact patients?**

As of the February 2022 Formulary update (effective **February 28, 2022**), ODB-eligible patients will receive Basaglar when starting treatment with insulin glargine.

Patients who have been established on Lantus can continue to receive Lantus. However, beginning with the February 2022 Formulary update, prescriptions for Lantus will require RFU Code 614 to indicate that the patient has been established on Lantus.

#### **6. What happens if a patient presents a prescription for an affected Lantus product without an RFU code?**

The dispensing pharmacist should notify the prescriber and the patient that an RFU/LU code and criteria are required. If the prescription cannot be clarified to

the new LU code (LU code 614), a temporary transition code RFU/LU 279 may be submitted to allow for continuity of care and for the claim to be processed in HNS. The transition code will be activated for the affected Lantus DINs to transition patients to the new LU code and criteria for a period of three (3) months after the change. It is expected that after three (3) months all patients have a prescription for the correct LU Code and meet the new criteria. The transition code for the affected Lantus products will be deactivated with the May 2022 Formulary update.

### **7. How will these changes impact prescribers?**

Lantus and Basaglar are not interchangeable products. As of the February 2022 Formulary update (effective **February 28, 2022**), new ODB-eligible patients starting treatment on Lantus will be required to be started on Basaglar. Prescribers should also note the RFU Code for patients established on Lantus and should notify their patients of the change. For clarity, Toujeo (insulin glargine) continues to be funded as a general benefit on the Formulary and is not impacted by this change.

### **8. How will these changes impact pharmacies/pharmacists?**

Lantus and Basaglar are not interchangeable products. As of the February 2022 Formulary update (effective **February 28, 2022**), new ODB-eligible patients starting treatment on insulin glargine are required to be started on Basaglar. Pharmacies/pharmacists can continue to submit claims for Lantus (insulin glargine), where applicable, and starting from the February 2022 Formulary update, with the appropriate RFU code 614 or temporary transition code (RFU/LU 279).

When a prescription for insulin glargine is received, pharmacists should verify whether the prescription is for Basaglar. Pharmacies should submit claims using the applicable drug identification number (DIN):

**Table 2**

<b>DIN</b>	<b>Brand Name</b>	<b>Generic Name</b>	<b>Strength &amp; Dosage Form</b>	<b>MFR</b>
02444844	Basaglar	insulin glargine	100U/mL Inj Sol-Cartridge 5x3mL Pk	Eli Lilly Canada Inc.
02461528	Basaglar	insulin glargine	100U/mL Inj Sol-KwikPen (80U) Pref Pen 5x3mL Pk	Eli Lilly Canada Inc.

**9. What are biosimilars?**

Biosimilars also referred to as subsequent entry biologics or follow-on biologics, are biologics that are similar to, and would enter the market after the patent for an innovator biologic has expired. They are similar to generic drugs. However, unlike generic drugs, biosimilars are not deemed bioequivalent to, nor interchangeable with, their reference drugs. Health Canada evaluates all the information provided to confirm that the biosimilar and the reference biologic drug are similar and that there are no clinically meaningful differences in safety and efficacy between them.

**10. Is the Ministry requiring patients to use biosimilars if they are on the innovator?**

Patients currently using Lantus may continue to do so and are not required to change to Basaglar at this time.

Please refer to Health Canada’s [Biosimilar biologic drugs in Canada: Fact Sheet](#) for more information.

**Additional information:**

**For pharmacies:**

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