

Formulary fact sheet: prescribing insulin needles

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide guidance to clinicians when prescribing needles for insulin administration.

Key messages:

- Current **first line** formulary choices include GlucoRx Finepoint® Insulin Pen Needles, Omnican Fine® Insulin Pen Needles and BD Viva® Insulin Pen Needles.
- Current **second line** formulary choices remain as BD Micro-fine+® and BD Micro-fine Ultra®.
- For adults, adolescents and children, local specialists support the use of needles no 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.

Further good practice points:

- Four, five and six millimetre 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.
- If leakage of insulin occurs with shorter needles, injection technique should be reviewed. The individual should count slowly to 10 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.
- Sharps should be disposed of in a sharps disposal box or some people prefer to use a clipper, which then itself needs to be disposed of in a sharps disposal box.
- Ensure patients are educated about the safe disposal of needles via a sharps disposal box.
- Sharpsguard yellow one litre (87p per container) / Sharpsafe yellow one litre (85p per container) are suitable for insulin needles (and lancets) and are available on FP10. Needle clipping devices are prescribable at a cost of £1.50.
- Patients should register with the council for sharps collection via [their website](#) or by calling 0300 1234 141.
- All children who attend school should be prescribed BD Autosshield needles this is to minimize the risk of needle stick injuries. These needles should be added to repeat prescriptions in addition to the above needles as they are for use in school, not for home use.
- Adult DSN's do not routinely recommend BD Autosshield needles for adults. They should be specialist advice only.

GlucoRxFinepoint® insulin pen needles

- Universal fit on all leading insulin pen delivery devices including Eli Lilly®, Novo Nordisk AS®, Becton Dickinson®, Owen Mumford® and Sanofi®.
- Drug Tariff price £4.50 for pack size 100. Available sizes: 4mm/31g, 5mm/31g, 6mm/31g, 8mm/31g, 10mm/29g, 12mm/29g



BD Viva® insulin pen needles

- BD Viva® Fine needles are compatible with most insulin pen devices.
- Drug tariff price £3.59 for pack size 90. Available sizes: 4mm/32g, 5mm/31g, 6mm/31g, 8mm/31g.



Omnican Fine® insulin pen needles

- Omnican® Fine needles are compatible with most insulin pen devices.
- Drug Tariff price £3.95 for pack size 100. Available sizes: 4mm/32g, 5mm/32g, 6mm/32g,

