



Prescribing Information

Apidra® (insulin glulisine). Please refer to Summary of Product Characteristics prior to use of Apidra. Apidra cartridges, OptiClik cartridges, Solostar and OptiSet prefilled pens each contain 300 Units of insulin glulisine in 3ml, equivalent to 10.47mg. Apidra vials contain 1000 Units insulin glulisine in 10ml, equivalent to 34.9mg. **Indications:** Treatment of diabetes mellitus in adults, adolescents and children of 6 years or above. **Dosage and administration:** Intravenous: Apidra can be administered intravenously by health care professionals. Apidra must not be mixed with glucose or Ringer's solution or with any other insulin. Subcutaneous: Apidra can be given subcutaneously shortly (0-15 min) before or soon after meals or by continuous subcutaneous pump infusion. When administered as a subcutaneous injection, Apidra must not be mixed with other medicinal products except NPH human insulin. When used with a subcutaneous insulin infusion pump, Apidra must not be mixed with diluents or any other insulin. Apidra should be used with an intermediate or long acting insulin or basal insulin analogue and can be used with oral hypoglycaemic agents. The dosage of Apidra should be individually adjusted. There is insufficient clinical information on the use of Apidra in children under 6 years. The pharmacokinetic properties of insulin glulisine are generally maintained in patients with renal impairment. Insulin requirements may be diminished in the elderly or patients with renal or hepatic impairment. **Contraindications:** Hypersensitivity to insulin glulisine or any excipients. **Precautions and warnings:** Use of inadequate dosages or discontinuation of treatment, especially in insulin-dependent diabetics, may lead to hyperglycaemia and diabetic ketoacidosis; conditions which are potentially lethal. Dosage adjustment may be necessary if patients undertake increased physical activity or change their meal plan. Uncorrected hypoglycaemic or hyperglycaemic reactions can cause loss of consciousness, coma or death. Cases of cardiac failure have been reported when pioglitazone was used in combination with insulin, especially in patients with risk factors for development of cardiac heart failure. Patients on this combination should be observed for signs and symptoms of heart failure, weight gain and oedema. Pioglitazone should be discontinued if any deterioration in cardiac symptoms occurs. **Pregnancy and lactation:** There are no adequate data on the use of insulin glulisine in pregnant women therefore caution should be exercised. It is unknown if insulin glulisine is excreted in breast milk. **Adverse reactions:** Very common: hypoglycaemia. Hypoglycaemia can become severe and may lead to unconsciousness and/or convulsions and may result in temporary or permanent impairment of brain function or even death. Common: injection site reactions and local hypersensitivity reactions, which are usually transitory and normally disappear during continued treatment. Uncommon: Systemic hypersensitivity reactions, which may include urticaria, chest tightness, dyspnea, allergic dermatitis and pruritus. Severe cases of generalized allergy, including anaphylactic reaction, may be life-threatening. Rare: lipodystrophy. Please consult Summary of Product Characteristics for full details of the recognised side effects with Apidra. **NHS price:** 1 x 10ml vial £16.00; 5 x 3ml cartridge £28.30; 5 x 3ml OptiSet £30.27; 5 x 3ml OptiClik cartridge £30.27; 5 x 3ml SoloStar £28.30. **Legal category:** POM. **MA holder:** Sanofi Aventis Deutschland GmbH, D-65926 Frankfurt am Main, Germany. **MA Numbers:** Apidra vial: EU/1/04/285/001; Apidra cartridge: EU/1/04/285/008; Apidra OptiSet: EU/1/04/285/016; Apidra OptiClik cartridge: EU/1/04/285/024; Apidra SoloStar: EU/1/04/285/032. **Full prescribing information is available from:** sanofi-aventis, One Onslow Street, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4YS. Tel: 01483 505515. **Date of Revision:** February 2011

Adverse events should be reported. Reporting forms and information can be found at www.yellowcard.gov.uk. Adverse events should also be reported to the sanofi-aventis drug safety department on 01483 505515.



September 2011

Dear Health Care Professional,

Temporary interruption in supply of APIDRA (insulin glulisine) - OPTISET and SOLOSTAR prefilled pens and CLIKSTAR reusable cartridges.

We would like to inform you of a temporary interruption to supply to a number of our APIDRA insulin preparations. This is due to a technical issue on the production line at the Sanofi manufacturing site in Frankfurt. This has not affected the quality of any of our insulins, but has caused a temporary interruption of production. **There is no concern regarding Apidra itself, and our other insulins, Lantus and Insuman, are not affected at all.**

This issue has been resolved and please be assured that we are working to return to normal supply as soon as possible. However, as a result of the interruption we are experiencing difficulty in supplying the following preparations:

Apidra Optiset and SoloStar Prefilled Pens

- Limited supplies are available at wholesalers, but we anticipate that our stocks will be exhausted by mid-late September 2011. A variable amount will remain available within pharmacies for a longer period.
- We will inform you when we are able to re-supply Apidra SoloStar, which we anticipate to be December 2011.
- We are unlikely to be able to return to supply of Optiset before the device's planned withdrawal at the end of 2011.

Apidra ClikStar Cartridges

- Limited supplies are available at wholesalers, but we anticipate that our stocks will be exhausted by late September/early October 2011. A variable amount will remain available within pharmacies for a longer period.
- We will inform you when we are able to re-supply Apidra ClikStar, which we anticipate to be December 2011.

The following preparations are not affected by the issue:

Apidra OptiClik Cartridges

- We have stock in the UK for existing patients until the device's planned withdrawal at the end of 2011.

Apidra solution for injection vials

- Apidra vials have not been affected by this issue and there is no concern about supply (and patients using insulin pumps should not be adversely affected).

What are the implications for patients?

Firstly, we apologise for the inconvenience and difficulty that this issue may cause. Our company remains committed to providing high-quality insulins for the benefit of patients, and we are doing all that we can to make Apidra available again as quickly as possible.

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We do realise that this is likely to cause problems for you and for some of your patients. We have therefore taken the following actions to try to mitigate the impact:

Patients in Clinical Trials

- We currently have over 50 sites in the UK studying patients using Apidra as part of their treatment regime. We recognise the personal commitment that these patients make, and that through volunteering they are helping to improve knowledge which will benefit all people with diabetes.
- We have therefore taken steps to ensure there are sufficient supplies of Apidra allocated to our clinical trial programme to allow research to continue un-interrupted. Everyone in our trials will continue to receive their Apidra, and no study should be impacted by the current shortages.

Patients for whom Apidra is the only option

- We recognise that for a small number of patients (including children), and for a variety of reasons, Apidra may be the only insulin that is suitable for that individual.
- To protect this group of patients, we have reserved a supply of Apidra SoloStar that we can make available on a case-by-case basis after discussion with our own medical staff. Further details on how to access this supply can be found at the foot of this letter.

Other patients who currently use Apidra may have difficulty fulfilling a new prescription until supply returns to normal, and we therefore suggest the following:

- In the first instance any patient using Apidra should continue to use their own personal stock until they need a new prescription.
- Pharmacists will use their very best endeavours to obtain stock. Once a patient does need further Apidra, we still recommend that you issue a prescription and your pharmacist will try to source the product.
- Only if the pharmacist is unable to obtain Apidra will they refer the patient back for review.
- At that point, patients may require an alternative rapid acting insulin until the time that Apidra supply is restored.

In this instance, we expect the majority of patients will be transferred to one of the other Rapid Acting Analogue (RAA) insulins (insulin aspart and insulin lispro). All three RAA insulins and regular human insulin are equipotent on a unit-for-unit basis. However, because of the differences between insulins in the speed of onset/offset of action, switching between insulins should only be done with appropriate medical supervision, and with monitoring of blood glucose levels to guide the adjustment of insulin dose and timing of administration.

Further Information

If you would like further information, the following options are available:

- To confirm whether Apidra is available for order: **Sanofi Customer Services - 0800 854 430**, (9am - 5:15pm Monday-Thursday, 9am - 4pm Friday).
- For any other enquiry, including to request access to Apidra for an individual patient for whom no alternative exists: **Sanofi Medical Information - 01483 505 515**.
- In addition, individual patient enquiries can be directed to our **Insulin Support Line - 0845 606 6887** (open 24 hours/day, 7 days/week).

- In addition you can contact your local Sanofi diabetes account manager for further information and support.

Sanofi places the patient at the centre of everything we do. We are currently developing leaflets to help your patients understand this situation and will have these available in the next few days. If you would like to receive a supply of leaflets, please contact your Sanofi diabetes account manager or Sanofi Medical Information, as above.

To conclude, we are truly sorry for any difficulty that this issue may cause. We remain committed to providing high quality insulins for the benefit of patients, and our commitment to you is to keep you updated as this issue progresses. We will write to you again with any update regarding the supply of APIDRA. To remind you, there is no concern regarding Apidra itself, and our other insulins, Lantus and Insuman, are not affected by the issue at all.

Yours Faithfully,

Steve Oldfield
General Manager UK

Tony Whitehead
Medical Director UK