

Colour change for insulin injection Fiasp to avoid mix ups with Tresiba

Cartridges, pre-filled pens and vials changing from yellow to red and yellow

The colour of cartridges, pre-filled pens and vials of the rapid-acting insulin Fiasp is changing from yellow to red and yellow. This action is being taken following cases where patients have mistakenly taken Fiasp instead of the long-acting insulin Tresiba (available in the EU as light green cartridges and pens) or the other way around. Such mix-ups, caused by the similar colour of the products especially in poor lighting, can cause hypo- or hyperglycaemia (low or high blood glucose levels), which can lead to serious health problems.

Patients who have been prescribed both these medicines should be careful to avoid mixing them up and healthcare professionals should make patients aware of the risk, particularly during the time before the colour change for Fiasp is fully in place. Pharmacists will receive a letter on 16 April 2018 with this information and local timelines for when red and yellow Fiasp products will be introduced.

Fiasp and Tresiba are medicines containing insulin used to control blood glucose levels in patients with diabetes. Fiasp is a rapid-acting insulin (insulin aspart) intended to be taken at mealtimes, whereas Tresiba (insulin degludec) has a long duration of action and is taken once a day.

Figure 1. New red and yellow Fiasp products.



Figure 2. Current yellow Fiasp and light green Tresiba products.



Information for patients

- The colour of cartridges, pre-filled pens and vials of Fiasp is changing from yellow to red and yellow.
- This follows cases of mix-ups between Fiasp, a rapid-acting insulin, and Tresiba, a long-acting insulin.
- Fiasp should be taken around mealtimes and Tresiba should be taken once a day, preferably at the same time every day, as advised by your doctor.
- Before each injection, check the name of the medicine. Take extra care if preparing injections in poor light to make sure you are taking the correct medicine at the correct time.
- Contact your healthcare professional immediately if you have mixed up your injections. Your healthcare professional can also advise you if you have any questions about your treatment.

Information for healthcare professionals

- When dispensing or prescribing Fiasp, check whether the patient also uses Tresiba.
- If so, remind the patient that it is important to be careful not to mix up these two medicines because of the risk of hypo- or hyperglycaemia.
- Advise patients to check the name of the insulin before each injection and to take extra care if preparing injections in poor light.

More about the medicine

Fiasp is a medicine that is used to treat adults with diabetes. It contains a rapid-acting insulin called insulin aspart. Fiasp is a solution for injection available in vials, cartridges or pre-filled pens. It is usually taken by injection under the skin around mealtimes and used in combination with an intermediate - or long-acting insulin that is given at least once a day. Tresiba is an example of a long-acting insulin (insulin degludec) that can be taken in combination with Fiasp.

Diabetes is a disease in which blood glucose is high, either because the body cannot produce insulin (type 1 diabetes) or because the body does not make enough insulin or cannot use it effectively (type 2 diabetes). The replacement insulin in medicines such as Fiasp and Tresiba helps control the level of blood glucose and reduce the symptoms of diabetes.

Call for reporting

Adverse reactions relating to Fiasp or Tresiba, including medication errors should be reported.

Reporting forms and information can be found at www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard.

Adverse events should also be reported to Novo Nordisk Limited. Telephone: Novo Nordisk Customer Care Centre 0845 600 5055. Calls may be monitored for training purposes.
