Policy on Needles for Insulin Devices

- Select a cost-effective needle from Table 1 below.
- Only prescribe needles that cost less than £6 per 100 needles.
- Ensure that the quantities on the prescription are appropriate and in line with the frequency of dosing.
- All needles are single use only.

Table 1: Cost-effective needles that cost less than £6 per 100 needles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Needle</th>
<th>Size and Gauge</th>
<th>Pack Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GlucoRx® CarePoint &amp; Ultra</td>
<td>4mm/32G, 4mm/31G, 5mm/31G, 6mm/31G, 8mm/31G</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BD Viva® Pen Needles</td>
<td>4mm/32G, 5mm/31G, 6mm/31G, 8mm/31G</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neon Verifine &amp; Ultra®</td>
<td>4mm/32G, 4mm/31G, 5mm/31G, 6mm/31G, 8mm/31G</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other cost-effective needles that can also be prescribed are: 4SURE®, CareFine®, GlucoRx FinePoint®, GlucoRx FinePoint Ultra®, Glucoject®, HaemoFine®, Insupen®, Microdot Droplet®, Myle Penfine Classic®, Omnican fine®, Profine®, TriCare®

Prescribing of Needles

- Needles in 4mm, 5mm and 6mm are generally suitable for all people regardless of BMI.
- Using needles of a shorter length (6mm or less) helps to prevent inadvertent IM injection of insulin.
- IM injection of all insulin should be avoided as unpredictable blood glucose levels and severe hypoglycaemia can result.
- If leakage of insulin occurs with shorter needles, injection technique should be reviewed.

Restrictions to Prescribing of Needles

- Do not prescribe any other needles (other than those in Table 1) unless specifically advised to do so by the diabetes specialist nurses at WSFT.
- Click here for a list of high cost needles that SHOULD NOT BE PRESCRIBED.
- ‘Safer sharps’ are medical sharps (including safety needles for the administration of insulin) that incorporate features or mechanisms to prevent or minimise the risk of accidental injury.
- DO NOT prescribe safety needles on FP10 for use by health and social care professionals or employees of the health and social care sector; the employer has a legal obligation to provide safer sharps under current Health and Safety regulations.¹ ² ³
- Exceptional circumstances only: safety needles may be prescribed on FP10 for use by people who are not health and social care professionals and are not employees in the health and social care sectors, but are administering insulin to a patient and there is a risk of disease transmission (e.g. HIV and hepatitis). The cost-effective choice is Neon Verifine Safety® 5mm/31G, 8mm/30G - £14.89/100 needles.

Other Useful Information

- GlucoRx FinePoint and Myle Penfine are compatible with all preloaded and reusable pens.⁴
- Needles are available in different sizes; the shortest appropriate needle should be used to prevent IM injection.
- If leakage occurs then the patient should count slowly down from 10 before withdrawing the needle.
- If doses of more than 60 units are required then the doses should be split and given at different sites.
- Needles should be stored in accordance with the manufacturer’s storage instructions.
- Click here for FIT UK guidance on injection technique recommendations.

References