

NHSGGC Insulin Pen Needles and Lancets Formulary

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Scope of the NHSGGC Insulin Pen Needles and Lancets Formulary

This formulary outlines preferred choices of insulin pen needles and lancets for both acute and primary care in NHSGGC. The products listed are recommended for patients who self-administer their own insulin therapy and self-monitor their glycaemic control.

Safety needles and lancets which are required for Health Care Professionals (HCPs) checking blood glucose levels and administering insulin are not included in this guidance.

Insulin Pen Needle and Lancet Use Best Practice

Best practice including using the shortest possible length of pen needles (4mm or in some people, 5mm) and using pen needles and lancets only once and rotating of injection site will assist with the reduction of pain and lipohypertrophy. For more information refer to [The Forum for Injection Technique UK](#) and [Correct Injection Technique in Diabetes Care Best Practice Guideline](#).

Choosing Pen Needle or Lancet

Preferred choice formulary products should be considered first line. Alternative products should only be used when there is a good clinical reason for doing so such as issues of compatibility with patients' devices (see compatibility charts) or patient choice. Any reasons for recommending a non-formulary item should be clear in communications from specialists to GPs.

Ordering and accessing supplies

Hospital inpatients

Whenever possible, patients are encouraged to use their own devices and consumables when admitted to hospital. An additional supply of needles can be obtained from procurement using usual Pecos ordering route.

For patients who are commenced on insulin treatment during their hospital stay, the Diabetes Specialist Nurse (DSN) will obtain supplies via PECOS (can include an interim supply on discharge until ongoing supplies are made via GP prescription).

Due to NHSGGC health and safety policy to protect HCP, patients will be taught how to self-administer insulin with safety needles and lancet. Patients must be advised that these are only for teaching purposes and will not be required on discharge. Patients should be advised on which needles and lancet will be supplied on discharge from hospital.

Primary care

Patients will be supplied with needles and lancets by repeat prescription via their GP practice. Clinicians should ensure needles requested are of appropriate size, volume and below ceiling cost.

Ceiling Costs

Preferred choices should be considered first line however, the ceiling costs below have been approved to support cost effective prescribing of consumables where preferred choices are not suitable. Any product above ceiling cost should have rationale clearly documented in patient notes and communication to prescribers in order to prevent switches being made at patient review or at medicines reconciliation.

Category	Ceiling cost
Pen needle (sheathed) (box 100)	≤ £3.00
Pen needle (unsheathed)	≤ £4.00
Lancet (box of 200)	≤ £5.00

Preferred choice insulin pen needles for self-administration of insulin

Needles for Pre-filled and Reusable Pen Injectors	Size	Pack of 100 cost in pence
GlucoRx CarePoint (sheathed)	4mm/31gauge	275
	5mm/31gauge	275
GlucoRx CarePoint Ultra	4mm/32gauge	275
Omnican Fine (unsheathed)	4mm/32 gauge	400
	5mm/32 gauge	400

Preferred choice Lancets

LANCETS (Sterile, Single-Use)	Size	Cost of 200 in pence (pack)
Apollo Twist (Apollo Medical Technologies Ltd)	0.36mm/28gauge	380
GlucoRx Lancets (GlucoRx Ltd)	0.31mm/30gauge	450

Prices from [Scottish Drug Tariff](#) 2023. Accessed 23.06.23

The majority of needles and lancets are universally compatible with devices. Refer to manufacturers' compatibility charts for further information.

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NHSGGC Diabetic Specialist Nurses

