



# PROVIDER *bulletin*

September 11, 2020

Dear Provider:

## **Are there any generic insulins and is there a difference?**

The landscape of insulins available is changing rapidly. Historically there have not been true generics or even similar molecules of the insulin proteins of the branded versions available. New branded products have come to market and are termed biosimilars or 'follow ons.' These are not generics in the traditional sense that most people think of when considering brand/generic versions of drugs. Follow on branded insulins have the exact structure and chemical make up of each other. Generic formulations of these branded insulins are made by the same manufacturer as the brand as well. Even the inert, buffering, and stabilizing agents are the same and in the same concentration.

Managed Care Medicaid plans are required by Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations to use the most cost-effective services to provide reasonable and necessary health care to protect life, prevent significant illness or significant disability. As these insulins are all identical, Kern Family Health Care has identified in bold the formulations they will cover. As new products come to market and other industry changes occur, these may change. These changes will be shared with the network.

<u>Drug</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>
<b>Semglee (insulin glargine):</b>	<b>Mylan/Biocon Biologics<sup>1</sup></b>
Basaglar (insulin glargine):	Eli Lilly <sup>2</sup>
Lantus (insulin glargine):	Sanofi-Aventis <sup>3</sup>
<b>Admelog (insulin lispro):</b>	<b>Sanofi-Aventis<sup>4</sup></b>
Humalog (insulin lispro):	Eli Lilly <sup>5</sup>
Lyumjev (insulin lispro-aabc):	Eli Lilly <sup>6</sup>
Insulin lispro:	Eli Lilly <sup>7</sup>
<b>Insulin aspart:</b>	<b>Novo Nordisk<sup>8</sup></b>
Novolog (insulin aspart):	Novo Nordisk <sup>9</sup>

**Syringes/pen needles:** Pen needles are allowed if history of insulin pens is identified electronically, syringes will clear if history of vials are identified. If the pen/needle or vial/syringe compatibility is not met, then the devices will not clear. Maximum allowed appropriate devices processed electronically are 200 per 40 days. True Plus is the preferred brand.

**Authorization submission:** Please submit TARs via the Provider portal. <https://provider.kernfamilyhealthcare.com>  
Contact your company's system administrator for user access. If you are unsure who your system administrator is, please contact your Kern Health Systems Provider Relations Representative.

Sincerely,

Bruce Wearda, R.Ph.  
Director of Pharmacy

- 1 <https://www.drugs.com/newdrugs/fda-approves-semglee-insulin-glargine-type-1-type-2-diabetes-5260.html>
- 2 <https://www.drugs.com/pro/basaglar.html>
- 3 <https://www.drugs.com/pro/lantus-solostar.html>
- 4 <https://www.drugs.com/pro/admelog.html#s-34090-1>
- 5 <https://www.drugs.com/pro/humalog.html>
- 6 <https://www.drugs.com/newdrugs/fda-approves-lyumjev-insulin-lispro-aabc-type-1-type-2-diabetes-5266.html>
- 7 <https://www.drugs.com/pro/insulin-lispro.html#s-34088-5>
- 8 <https://www.drugs.com/pro/insulin-aspart-injection.html>
- 9 <https://www.drugs.com/pro/novolog-injection.html>