

# Discontinuation of Levemir<sup>®</sup> (insulin detemir) FlexPen<sup>®</sup> and Penfill<sup>®</sup>

## What you need to know

- The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has [advised](#) that Levemir<sup>®</sup> FlexPen<sup>®</sup> 100 units/mL pen device and Penfill<sup>®</sup> 100 units/mL cartridge will be discontinued by the manufacturer in December 2026.
- The discontinuation is not related to concerns about the safety and effectiveness of Levemir<sup>®</sup>.
- Speak with your healthcare professional as soon as possible to discuss the most suitable replacement insulin based on your individual needs and circumstances.

## What is Levemir<sup>®</sup> (insulin detemir)?

Levemir<sup>®</sup> (insulin detemir) is a long-acting insulin used to help manage diabetes. It is used once or twice a day, depending on your needs.

## What does this mean for me?

If you currently use Levemir<sup>®</sup> FlexPen<sup>®</sup> pen device or Penfill<sup>®</sup> 100 units/mL cartridge

- continue using Levemir<sup>®</sup> as prescribed
- contact your healthcare professional as soon as practicable to discuss changing to an alternative insulin
- do not stop or change Levemir<sup>®</sup> on your own
- allow enough time to plan and manage the change safely before December 2026, before your Levemir<sup>®</sup> supply runs out or expires.

## What alternative insulins are available?

Although there is no direct replacement for Levemir<sup>®</sup>, several other insulin products are available in Australia. When deciding on the most suitable alternative, you and your healthcare professional will consider factors such as:

- your type of diabetes
- your current diabetes management plan
- your current insulin dose(s)
- your lifestyle and preferences
- other health conditions you may have and other medicines you are taking.

The most suitable insulin selected for you may differ from that chosen for another person using Levemir<sup>®</sup>.

## What could I discuss with my healthcare professional?

When discussing the change, consider asking:

- When should I plan to switch from Levemir® to my new insulin?
- Which insulin will replace my Levemir® and how much will it cost?
- Will my dose change?
- Will I need a different injection device? If so, how do I use it?
- How often should I check my blood sugar levels during the change?
- How can I access my new insulin product?
- Am I eligible for a subsidised continuous glucose monitor (CGM)?
- Who should I contact if I have concerns after changing insulin?
- What should I do if my blood sugar levels are outside my target range?

## Will my diabetes management change?

It might. Different long-acting insulins have different durations of action and dosing schedules. Your healthcare professional(s) may recommend additional monitoring and follow-up appointments while you adjust to the new insulin.

## Staying safe during the change

When you start a new insulin, make sure you and your family members, friends or support people know:

- how often to check your blood sugar during the change
- how to recognise and manage [low blood sugar level \(hypoglycaemia\)](#) and [high blood sugar level \(hyperglycaemia\)](#)
- what to do if you are unwell ([sick day management](#))
- the [safe driving requirements](#) that apply when using insulin
- how and when to administer [glucagon](#) in an emergency, if it has been prescribed.

Speak with your healthcare professional if you need further information or support before changing to a new insulin.

## Additional support

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) has information to help people use insulin safely, including resources on [safer insulin use](#) and [changes to insulin products](#) in Australia.

The TGA also provides information on [the discontinuation of some insulin products](#).

If you have questions about changing from Levemir® to another insulin, speak with your healthcare professional.

## For more information

Visit [Medicines shortages and discontinuations](#) or contact [1800MEDICARE](#) (1800 633 422).

© Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care 2026