bcdiabetes.ca
Patient Care + Research + Clinical Trials

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Open letter to BC Pharmacists

Re: insulin glargine U100

2019-Feb-28

Dear Pharmacist.

As you are aware insulin glargine U100 (Lantus) was first manufactured by Sanofi and brought to market in Canada in 2005. With the expiry of Sanofi's patent in 2015 Eli Lilly manufactured a biosimilar version of glargine U100 and brought it to market in 2017 branded as Basaglar.

From a therapeutic and pharmacodynamic perspective these two insulins are identical: unit for unit they have the same blood glucose lowering effect.

In Canada the Basaglar brand of insulin glargine U100 is currently priced 25% lower than the Lantus brand with respect to cartridges and disposable pens (4.7 vs 6.2 cents per unit respectively).

The mission of BCDiabetes is to optimize care and improve outcomes for all British Columbians living with diabetes: **this includes avoiding unnecessary expense.**

This letter is to request that for price-sensitive patients who are prescribed insulin glargine U100 you dispense the less expensive of the two brands.

With respect to BC Pharmacare, all BC Endocrinologists (including the author) are exempt from the need to submit a Special Authority Request for coverage for both brands of insulin glargine U100. Please note that as of **2018-Aug-21** for patients not previously prescribed insulin glargine U100, new prescriptions for insulin glargine U100 will be eligible for BC Pharmacare coverage for the **Basaglar brand only**.

Yours sincerely,

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