

Insulin Pen Delivery Systems General Information

General Information

- A. An insulin pen is an insulin delivery system that has the visual appearance of a writing pen; it consists of a cartridge holder (insulin must be purchased in prescribed cartridges), a piston rod (this is a screw mechanism that adjusts the desired dose), a dose indicator window (dose is indicated by visual numbers), a push button (this delivers the insulin), and a pen encasement. The purpose of an insulin pen is to provide insulin with a convenient and accurate device at school. Insulin pens will assist in preventing dose errors that may occur with a syringe and vial.
- B. Some pens can be purchased with the insulin cartridge already in place (these are considered "disposable pens") and other pens require "loading" of a specific insulin cartridge.
- C. Storage of cartridges may or may not require refrigeration. Specific manufacturer's instructions regarding handling and storage of insulin cartridges must be followed.

There are multiple companies that manufacture insulin pens. A specific brand of insulin cartridge is prescribed by the student's physician. Specific manufacturer's instructions must be followed. The following companies currently manufacture insulin pens:

1. B-D Pen: For use with all brands of 150-ml insulin cartridges; delivers 1 to 30 units in 1-unit increments; works with B-D Ultra-Fine Original (29G x 1/2") or B-D Ultra-Fine III (31G x 5/16") pen needles.
2. B-D Pen Mini: Same as above with the exception that dosage increments are delivered in 0.5 to 15 units in 1/2 unit increments.
3. Disetronic Pen: "Open system" allows use on any type, manufacturer, and mixture of insulin. Uses disposable 315 unit (3.15 ml) plastic cartridges. Delivers insulin in 1-unit increments from 1 to 80 units per injection using standard 30G needles.
4. Humalog Pen: Pre-filled, disposable insulin delivery device that holds 3.0 ml (300 units) of rapid acting insulin. No refrigeration needed after the first use. Humulin Pen: Same as Humalog Pen but contains insulin with different duration of action times.
5. NovoPen 1.5: Delivers insulin in 1-unit increments up to 40 units; designed for use with Novolin PenFill 1.5 ml cartridge and NovoFine 30 disposable needle.
6. Autopen AN 3100: Has a release button extension that aids in the automatic delivery of insulin from any 1.5 ml glass insulin cartridge. This model delivers insulin in 1-unit increments.