

Insulin Degludec (Tresiba[®]) for Type 2 diabetes

NHS Devon

Commissioning policy

The routine commissioning of Insulin degludec is not accepted in Devon for the treatment of type 2 diabetes. The Formulary Interface Group should not include this in locally defined treatment recommendations.

Rationale for the decision

Insulin degludec is licensed for the treatment of type 1 and type 2 diabetes; in patients with type 2 diabetes, clinical trials have demonstrated non-inferiority in change in HbA1c and a statistically significant reduction in overall symptomatic and nocturnal hypoglycaemia in comparison to another long-acting insulin analogue. It is more expensive than other insulins, including long-acting analogues, and is not considered to represent good value for general use.

In addition, the committee considered whether restricted use would be commissioned because of potential advantages that would apply in defined subpopulations. Insulin degludec is the only licensed insulin available which is presented in a strength of 200units/ml. This might be an advantage to some type 2 diabetes patients who require high doses by enabling these to be delivered with fewer injections than standard 100units/ml therapy. The formulation of insulin degludec imposes a maximum dose per individual injection of 160 units, meaning that patients requiring daily doses in excess of this would still require multiple injections. Given the higher costs of insulin degludec and limited benefit that would accrue to patients it is considered that insulin degludec does not provide good value for the local health economy. Routine commissioning of insulin degludec for this group is not supported.

Guidance notes on exceptionality

Where the circumstances of treatment for an individual patient do not meet the criteria described above exceptional funding can be sought. Individual cases will be reviewed by the appropriate panel of the ICB upon receipt of a completed application from the patient's GP, consultant or clinician. Applications cannot be considered from patients personally.

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