Toujeo® (Insulin glargine) – Prescribing Support

NHS West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group

- **Toujeo® is a high-strength insulin : insulin glargine 300 units/ml**
- **Insulin glargine 300units/ml is not recommended for routine use in adults or children in either Type 1 or Type 2 diabetics and may only be of benefit to certain patients (see below)**
- **Specialist initiation only transferred to the GP only when patients are stable**
- **Prescribe by brand only**
- **Patients be given the appropriate insulin safety card (passport)**

Licensed Indication

Toujeo® (Insulin glargine) is licensed for the treatment of diabetes mellitus in adults

MOPB Decision June 2016

Restricted to those patients with uncontrolled HbA1c (>7.5%/ 58 mmol/mol) who require basal insulin and have:-

- high insulin dose with significant insulin resistance (>1unit insulin/kg) or
- experiencing recurrent episodes of hypoglycaemia.
- Or require assistance with their insulin injection
- Specialist initiation only, transferred to the GP only after 3 months when patients have proven benefit in HbA1c and stable with prescribing support. HbA1c measured by Specialist prior to transfer.
- Prescribe by brand only

Treatment should be **initiated only under hospital or specialist supervision**.

Safety

Toujeo® is a high-strength insulin. It is not simply interchangeable with other long-acting insulins and there is a potential risk of medication error. However, the dose window of the Toujeo® pen shows the number of Toujeo® units to be injected.

Patients should read and understand the patient leaflet and education material and should have training on the correct use of Toujeo®. See MHRA Drug Safety Update April 2015 *High strength, fixed combination and biosimilar insulin products: minimising the risk of medication error* for more information https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/high-strength-fixed-combination-and-biosimilar-insulin-products-minimising-the-risk-of-medication-error#high-strength-insulin-products

Ensure the patient has been given the appropriate insulin safety cards (passports), carry the card at all times and use it to check they have the correct insulin when receiving a prescription, when insulin is dispensed, or in situations when insulin is being given to them by another person

Dosage

Toujeo® is a basal insulin for once-daily administration at any time of the day, preferably at the same time every day but can be up to 3 hours before or after usual time. The dose regimen (dose and timing) should be adjusted according to individual response.

In type 1 diabetes mellitus, Toujeo® must be combined with short-/rapid-acting insulin to cover mealtime insulin requirements.

In patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus, Toujeo® can also be given together with other anti-hyperglycaemic medicinal products.

Adverse effects

The safety profile of Toujeo® is largely similar to that of Lantus. The most frequent adverse events are nasopharyngitis and upper respiratory tract infection; the most frequent severe adverse event is hypoglycaemia
See BNF for full details https://www.medicinescomplete.com/mc/bnf/current/ or SPC https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/30586

Monitoring

The most frequent adverse event is hypoglycaemia and clinicians should monitor for this as with other insulin therapy. Patients will be monitored in secondary care until stable. Any concerns regarding a patient's therapy can be directed to the diabetes team at Princess Alexandra Hospital (Diabetes-Endo@nhs.net).

References

Toujeo® Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC). Sanofi **https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/30586**
NICE Evidence summary: new medicine ESNM65 Dec 2015 https://www.nice.org.uk/advice/esnm65/chapter/Key-points-from-the-evidence
Scottish medicines Consortium: insulin glargine (Toujeo®) https://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/SMC_Advice/Advice/1078_15_insulin_glargine_Toujeo/insulin_glargine_Toujeo_ABB

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