

Home Health Foundation, Inc.

SUBJECT: LANTUS AND LEVEMIR INSULIN PREFILLS

PURPOSE: To ensure all visiting clinicians are aware of current agency practices.

Policy

It is the policy of Home Health Foundation, Inc. that clinicians will not prefill syringes with Lantus or Levemir for the purpose of storage and administration by the patient at a later time. Manufacturer recommendations, which are based on internal studies by both insulin and syringe manufacturers, do not recommend prefilling syringes and storing for any period of time longer than needed for application, due to questions of instability and decreased effectiveness of these insulins as a result of this practice.

Rationale

Lantus or Levemir insulin may become turbid or cloudy after 2 days of storage in prefilled syringes and fail to meet manufacturer specifications. Levemir may adhere to the plastic syringe therefore altering the dose administered. Both Lantus and Levemir are available in prefilled pens, which are made of glass. Lantus or Levemir should be inspected prior to administration and only administered if it appears clear and colorless.

Clinical Issues

HHVNA staff are unable to prefill Lantus and Levemir, however a physician may override this recommendation and allow a caregiver to prefill. The client/caregiver should be educated that at a minimum, if the decision is made to prefill syringes with Lantus or Levemir, that the syringes should be visually inspected immediately prior to administration to assure that the insulin remains clear and colorless. However, this should not be considered a full guarantee to the quality of the product after extended storage in a syringe. Pen devices should be considered as an alternative to syringes. Avoidance of microbial contamination cannot be ensured when insulin is predrawn and stored for later use.

References

1. Lantus (package insert). Bridgewater, NJ: sanofi-aventis U.S.; 2015
2. BD insulin syringe FAQ. Can syringes be prefilled? Available at: <http://www.bd.com/us/diabetes/page.aspx?cat=7002&id=7427>. Accessed July 07, 2015.
3. Novo Nordisk Medical Information Services, June 11, 2015

Responsibility: Visiting Staff
Distribution: Leadership

Nature of Change	N/A - New
CCO Signature	_____ /____/____ Date
CEO Signature	_____ /____/____ Date