

Good evening

I have your email address because you have been in touch with our organisation, Reality Check, perhaps to place an order for our Starter Kit for newly- diagnosed adults with Type 1 diabetes recently.

We have a very strict spam policy, so I will not be using your email to contact you often, but I did want to make sure you had heard the exciting news today about Lantus and Levemir that many of our members have been anticipating for many years.

I hope you don't mind me forwarding to you the note that I have just put out to our members for your information.

Please don't hesitate to reply and pass to me any feedback at any time. I hope the following is helpful.

Yours sincerely, Kate Gilbert

Lantus and Levemir subsidised!

The government announced today that not- so-new-anymore insulins Lantus and Levemir will be subsidised from 1st October 2006.

Both insulins will be available the same way that other insulins and medicines are obtained, under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, at a cost of \$29.50 per prescription (approx 6 months' supply) or \$4.70 if you have a Health Care Card.

LANTUS is a flat profile or peakless insulin, which means its action doesn't change over time after it is inhaled like all other insulins do. It lasts for approximately 24 hours so is used as a basal or background insulin, most commonly injected once per day, though sometimes twice. It is made by a French company called Sanofi-Aventis.

LEVEMIR is also a long-acting insulin - it has a reduced peak compared to other insulins available up until now, and lasts for approximately 20 hours. It is made by a Danish company Novo Nordisk who currently make insulins such as NovoRapid and Protaphane.

(Note: The PBS listing of Levemir is restricted to people with Type 1 diabetes only. Lantus is unrestricted and will be available to people with any type of diabetes. That's the only catch though!)

How do I get it?

Your doctor will be able to write you a PBS prescription for Lantus or Levemir from 1st October. That's a Sunday though, so best make an appointment for Monday, 2nd!

Then just wander down to your local pharmacist - don't forget they may well have to order it in like any other insulin.

and the official words...

The full announcement from the Health Minister Tony Abbott's office, today 24th October, reads as follows:

24 August 2006
ABB121/06

Lantus® (insulin glargine) and Levemir® (insulin detemir), will be available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from 1 October 2006 for the treatment of patients with diabetes.

Diabetes is a common disease characterised by high blood sugar levels as a consequence of a lack of the hormone insulin. Type 1 diabetes occurs when the body stops producing the hormone insulin. Type 2 diabetes occurs when the body does not produce enough insulin and does not respond to it properly.

Lantus® and Levemir® will be used to maintain a basic insulin level and are expected to reduce the incidence of episodes of low blood-sugar levels ("hypos") compared with current therapy. Both drugs have been recommended for type 1 diabetes. Lantus® has also been recommended for type 2 diabetes.

Patients with type 1 diabetes require insulin injections. Type 2 patients may reach a situation where they need insulin injections in addition to other medications. Different insulin preparations act over different lengths of time. While treatments aim to bring blood sugar close to naturally-occurring levels, problems can lead to blood-sugar levels being too high (hyperglycaemia) or too low (hypoglycaemia).

It is estimated that around 110,000 people will begin treatment with Lantus® or Levemir® in the first full year of listing for the treatment of type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

From: www.health.gov.au

Questions? Excited?

Of course, please contact your GP or endocrinologist if you have questions about whether Lantus or Levemir are suitable for you.

Can't contain your excitement? Need to share your joy / relief / happiness with the world? A brilliant plan for how to spend your formerly Lantus- allocated cash?

All of a sudden interested in what this Lantus and Levemir are, now that they're not insanely expensive??

There's much chat on the Reality Check website about it all of course.

[Join the discussion here...](#)

That's all from RCHQ - Coming to you direct from the Australian Diabetes conference on the Gold Coast. Do spread the word!

Over and out. Cheers! [Pop!]

Kate Gilbert

Founder & Volunteer

REALITY CHECK

young adults with diabetes Inc.

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