

What are Biosimilars?



Biologic drug—a drug made from living organisms

Reference biologic or originator drug—the first version of a biologic drug to be made

Biosimilar drug—the next version of a biologic drug to be made after the reference biologic's patent expires

NovoRapid® is the reference biologic of insulin aspart. Trurapi® and Kirsty® are biosimilar versions of NovoRapid® currently available in Saskatchewan.



Biosimilars work in the same way as the reference biologic. They are built similarly and people can expect the same results from biosimilars.

Biosimilars are:



Safe



Effective



High Quality

Biosimilars are Tried and Tested:



Many people have successfully started or transitioned to a biosimilar:

Provinces and territories across Canada (and many countries around the world) have similar policies that support the use of biosimilars.

Approved by Health Canada using a rigorous process:

Drug studies and clinical trials must show that biosimilars are as effective and safe as reference biologics.

Biosimilars, like Trurapi® and Kirsty®, work as well as NovoRapid® at managing diabetes.

Available and used for many years: Biosimilars have been approved in Canada since 2009 and are used to treat diabetes, anemia, psoriasis, inflammatory bowel disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and other conditions.

What stays the same:

- **How effective your medication is:**
Biosimilars are proven to work as well as reference biologics.
- **How you feel taking your medication:**
There are no expected differences in side effects between the biosimilar and reference biologic.
- **How you take your medicine and your dose.**

What might be different:

- **How your medicine looks:**
The package/container may be different.

Trurapi® and Kirsty®:

- Same dose as NovoRapid®
- Similar storage to NovoRapid®— check with your pharmacist about where to keep your insulin and when it expires.

The pen used to give yourself Trurapi® or Kirsty® will be different from the pen you use for NovoRapid®.

- The pen needles you have been using will fit the new pen.

Talk to your healthcare providers to help you transition to a biosimilar.

Ask questions about:

- the similarities and differences between your reference biologic and the biosimilar.
- what to expect from the transition.
- where to find resources about biosimilars.

It is important to check your blood sugars regularly any time your insulin regimen changes, including when you transition to a biosimilar insulin.



QUESTIONS FOR A PHARMACIST?



Contact medSask to have your biosimilar questions answered free of charge by a pharmacist.

You can reach us by **phone: 1 800 665 3784** or **email: med.sask@usask.ca.**

