



Canadian Association des Pharmacists pharmaciens Association du Canada



Hypurin (porcine insulin) discontinuation

Wockhardt UK, the only current, global supplier of porcine insulin has informed Health Canada that it will no longer supply porcine insulin products for the Canadian market. Health Canada is working with the importer to monitor the remaining supply and is exploring ways to extend the availability of animal-sourced insulin by importing a UK-authorized supply that expires May 2026. No additional inventory of these drugs will be available after this inventory has been depleted.

TABLE 1: Porcine insulin products marketed in Canada¹

Product	Format	DIN	Manufacturer	Expiry Date of Canadian Inventory
Hypurin® Regular Pork Insulin	Vial – Solution for Injection	02275872	Wockhardt UK	Dec 2025
Hypurin® NPH Insulin Isophane Pork	Vial – Solution for Injection	02275864	Wockhardt UK	April 2026

*UK-authorized Hypurin Porcine (Hypurin Regular Pork, Insulin,) and Hypurin Porcine Isophane (Hypurin NPH Insulin Isophane, Pork) will be imported to extend animal-sourced insulin availability in the short term. This inventory expires in May 2026.

Health Canada–approved indications for Hypurin:²

Hypurin is indicated for the following conditions:

- Treatment of insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus
- Management of patients who are unable to tolerate recombinant human insulin or whose diabetes is inadequately controlled by recombinant human insulin

Management strategies

We recognize the importance of animal-derived insulin for some patients with diabetes. In anticipation of discontinuation of the product for the Canadian market, health-care professionals should consider the following:

- 1. Do not initiate new patients on this product, as supply will not be attainable.
- 2. Do not order or dispense large quantities of Hypurin insulin.
- 3. Meet with patients to discuss alternative diabetes medication.
 - a. Other forms of insulin are <u>available</u>. Typically, the conversion dosing (in units) from animal-derived insulin to a synthetic insulin analogue (e.g., glargine) is 1:1. One way to estimate the conversion dose (especially for people with type 1 diabetes) is to use the calculated average daily insulin dose over the past 5–7 days and use 50% of the average dose as basal insulin and 50% for bolus insulin divided between meals. Alternatively, for people with type 2 diabetes, use a basal insulin dose, consider covering meals either with oral antidiabetic agents or mealtime insulin with a slightly lower dose.³
 - b. Other antidiabetic agents (e.g., GLP-1 agonists, oral antidiabetic agents) may also be appropriate but should be assessed by a health-care professional.







- 4. Consultation with an endocrinologist/diabetologist may be appropriate to support transition to alternative insulins.
- 5. Additional key messages that you can provide to a patient who is affected by this change include:
 - a. Consult with a health-care provider in a timely manner.
 - b. Do not stop insulin suddenly, since this can be dangerous.
 - c. Animal-derived insulins have not been available in other countries (such as the US and Australia) since the early 2000s.
 - d. Recent studies have shown no harm in switching patients from animal-derived insulin to synthetic forms.⁴

These recommendations are intended as guidance for health-care professionals to select alternatives and strategies for the discontinuation of a product and are not meant to replace clinical assessment and judgment. The clinical and operational implications may vary by patient or by facility.

References

- 1. Health Canada. WOCKHARDT UK LIMITED Drug and Health Products Portal [internet]. Ottawa: Health Canada; 2025. Available from: https://dhpp.hpfb-dgpsa.ca/dhpp/company/12151. Accessed Feb 14, 2025.
- 2. Wockhardt UK Ltd. Hypurin® NPH Insulin, Pork. United Kingdon: Wockhardt UK Ltd; 2016. Available from: https://pdf.hres.ca/dpd_pm/00039738.PDF. Accessed Feb 14, 2025.
- Pharmacists Letter. How to Switch Insulin Products [internet]. 2024. Available from: https://pharmacist.therapeuticresearch.com/Content/Segments/PRL/2016/Dec/How-to-Switch-Insulin-Products-10473. Accessed Feb 14, 2025.
- 4. Garber, A. J., et al. "Impact of transfer from animal-source insulins to biosynthetic human insulin (rDNA E coli) in patients with diabetes mellitus." *Clinical therapeutics* 13.5 (1991): 627-636. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/1799920/.