

The same insulin, lower price



IVM makes you better

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The same insulin, lower price

You're using an insulin because you have diabetes. This insulin is made by several different manufacturers. These insulin products contain the same type of insulin and are of the same quality. Your health insurance company only reimburses one of these insulin products. Other insulin products with the same insulin are usually not reimbursed by your health insurance company.

An example

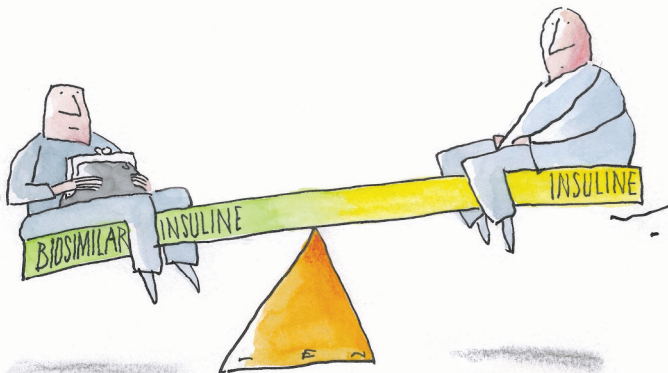
You're given a prescription for insulin. This prescription contains the name of the insulin, the desired strength and how you should use the insulin. For example as a pre-filled pen or a cartridge. During the dispensing process the pharmacist can choose from two comparable products. Either the reference medicine or the same type of insulin but of a another brand:

The reference medicine

The reference medicine is the first made insulin product of its type. When a manufacturer puts a new type of insulin on the market, other manufacturers are not allowed to copy or sell this type of insulin for a number of years. We call this way of protecting a product a patent. This allows the manufacturer to earn back the money it needed to develop this new type of insulin.

The medicine from another brand

Once an insulin has been on the market for a number of years, other manufacturers are allowed to produce and sell a comparable insulin. These insulins work the same way and are just as good and safe to use. They just have a different brand name and packaging. We call these insulins from other brands biosimilars.



What do you notice when converting to another brand of insulin?

Your health insurance company can decide to only reimburse the insulin from another brand. This means that you will then have to convert to the other brand of the same insulin. For this conversion you will receive help from your pharmacist and your diabetes care provider. For most people this change goes without problems. The insulin of another brand is comparable to the reference medicine.

Pay attention to:

- It is important that you pay extra attention in the first two weeks of the conversion to see if you develop any side-effects.
- You may need to keep track of your blood glucose levels more often.
- Contact your diabetes care provider when you notice that the conversion has affected your diabetes.

Does the pen work the same way?

The insulin pen of another brand may work slightly different than what you are used to. You will therefore receive new instructions on how to use the new pen. Your pharmacist or diabetes care provider will also give you instructions. Do you still have some questions? Then you can always contact your pharmacist or diabetes care provider.



Are you also looking for affordable healthcare?

Health insurance companies try to keep healthcare costs affordable for every Dutch person. To achieve this, they make agreements with the manufacturers regarding the price of the medicines. This includes making agreements for the insulin prices. How does this work?



- The health insurance company will only reimburse one of the products of the same type of insulin.
- The health insurance company makes agreements with the manufacturer to ensure that there is always enough stock of this type of insulin.
- The health insurance company receives a discount on the price from the manufacturer. This discount is secret. It does, however, lower the healthcare costs.
- These agreements mean lower costs for the health insurance company. This in turn will prevent large increases in your health insurance premium. This also leaves the health insurance company with more money to use for other expensive treatments.

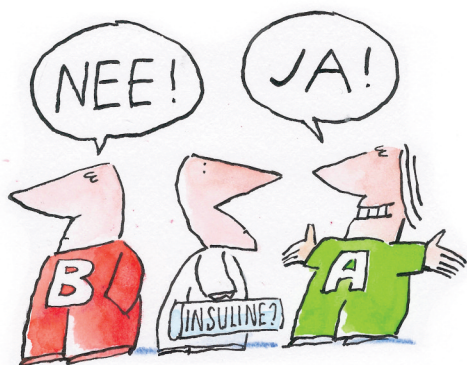
Does the health insurance company reimburse your insulin?

Insulin is part of the basic package of every health insurance policy. However, there are many products with the same type of insulin. Your health insurance policy determines which product you are reimbursement for. Do you want a different product with the same insulin? Your health insurance company will usually not reimburse this product.

Deductible

Check with your health insurance company whether the costs for your type of insulin are covered by your deductible:

- With some health insurance policies, insulin is part of the deductible. This includes the brand that the health insurance company has chosen to include in its policy. This means that you will have to pay (a part of) the costs yourself, until you have reached your deductible.
- Several other health insurance companies have chosen not to include an insulin brand in your deductible. This means that you do not have to pay any costs of this insulin yourself. Even when you are yet to use your deductible.



Medication passport

You are going to use an insulin with a different brand name. Is this brand name difficult to remember? Then ask your pharmacy for a free medication passport. The medication passport is also useful when you go to the hospital or plan to go abroad. Your medication passport will provide you with an overview of all your medications.

More information

- For questions about your insulin, please contact your pharmacist or diabetes care provider.
- More information about insulins can also be found at www.apotheek.nl or www.thuisarts.nl.
- Would you like to share your insulin experience with other diabetes patients? You can do this at www.meldpuntmedicijnen.nl.





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