

Drug Name	Indication	Potential Plan Impact
Avonex PS (30mcg/0.5mL pre-filled syringe)	Treatment of relapsing, remitting Multiple Sclerosis	\$\$
Prevacid Fastab 30mg	Duodenal and gastric ulcers; GERD (gastro-esophageal reflux disease); Zollinger-Ellison syndrome and eradication of H.Pylori	\$
Glumetza 500mg tablet	Diabetes Type II	\$\$
	\$ Little increase estimated in drug plan expenditure	
	\$\$ Drug plan expenditure estimated to be somewhat increased	
	\$\$\$ Potential for large increase in drug plan expenditure	

Levemir – Insulins get more convenient

Levemir (insulin detemir) is a long-acting (basal) insulin produced through recombinant DNA technology. It is injected subcutaneously (just under the skin) once or twice daily to provide a duration of action up to 24 hours. Levemir is indicated for both Type 1 (insulin dependent) and Type II (non-insulin dependent) diabetics.

Levemir is available in a cartridge/Penfill format for ease of convenience so that patients do not have to draw insulin from a vial. Levemir offers the following advantages:

1. Stable at room temperature for up to 42 days;
2. Reduced incidence of low blood sugar, especially during the night (nocturnal hypoglycaemia); and
3. Less weight gain during treatment (which is common in diabetic patients)¹.

Other than the above points, Levemir has not demonstrated significant long-term advantages over traditional insulin therapy. Levemir (\$7.32 per mL) is priced 33% more than other basal insulins like Lantus (\$5.51 per mL)². It is also three times the price of existing long-acting insulins such as insulin NPH (\$2.64 per mL). Like Levemir, insulin NPH can be given once or twice daily; it has the same effect as Levemir and it also provides a duration of action up to 24 hours.

The majority of ClaimSecure's clients will **automatically cover** Levemir under their existing **Open Drug Formularies**. However, for clients who subscribe to ClaimSecure's **Managed Formularies**, the drug will be placed under Special Authorization. Because of the higher cost of Levemir, it is best reserved for patients whose diabetes cannot be controlled with existing long-acting insulins (continuing to have episodes of hypoglycaemia) or who are candidates for insulin infusion pump therapy.

If you require additional information about Levemir, please contact Shellina Sevany in ClaimSecure's Clinical Services Department at (905) 949-3025 or 1-888-479-7587 ext.3025.

Recommendation: Special Authorization

ClaimSecure reserves the right to amend in part or in its entirety stated special authorization clinical guidelines

References:

1. Hermanson K, Fontaine P, Kukolja KK *et al.* Insulin analogues (insulin detemir and insulin aspart) versus traditional human insulins (NPH insulin and regular human insulin) in basal-bolus therapy for patients with Type 1 diabetes. *Diabetologia* 2004;47: 622-629.
2. Levemir Product Monograph. Novo Nordisk Canada, December, 2005.

