

Novolog

When you have Diabetes, you may be prescribed Novolog. You may also be familiar with its generic name, Insulin Asaprt. Novolog is a high alert medication, which means if you do not take it exactly as prescribed it may cause illness or injury.

When you have diabetes, your body does not make enough insulin or it doesn't use insulin properly. Injecting Novolog can help you keep your blood glucose in a healthy range. It comes in either a vial or pre-filled pen.

Novolog is a rapid acting insulin, which means it begins to work very quickly, within 15 minutes. It works hardest from 1 to 3 hours, and it lasts a total of 3-5 hours.

When taking Novolog, one possible side effect is low blood glucose, or hypoglycemia. Because Novolog begins to lower your blood glucose almost immediately, you must be ready to eat 5 to 10 minutes after you take it. Otherwise, your blood glucose could drop too low.

Low blood glucose is a serious side effect and can cause: headache, weakness, a cold sweat or clammy feeling, shakiness, hunger, fast heartbeat, irritability, vision changes and dizziness. If you ignore it, Hypoglycemia can get worse and you can pass out.

Discuss the best ways to deal with Hypoglycemia with your healthcare provider and always carry a fast-acting carbohydrate such as glucose tablets or gel, available at any pharmacy.

When taking Novolog, other possible side effects include: allergic reaction, and redness, swelling or itching at the injection site. Discuss the complete list of side effects with your healthcare provider before taking Novolog.

Before using Novolog, tell your healthcare provider if you have liver or kidney problems. Your dose may need to be adjusted.

Give your healthcare provider a complete list of all other medications you use. Taking some medications while using insulin can make it harder to tell when you have low blood glucose and can increase your risk of serious heart problems.

Meet with your healthcare provider to determine how much Novolog to take and how best to take it. Remember to check your blood glucose as directed before injecting insulin.

Whether you are using a syringe or insulin pen, Novolog should be injected into fatty tissue, just below the skin. The recommended injection areas are: the abdomen or belly, the backs of the arms, the tops or sides of the thigh, and the buttocks or rear.

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Try to rotate your injection site using a regular pattern, like a clock. This helps keep your skin and underlying tissues healthy.

Novolog may be used alone, with other types of insulin, or with oral diabetes medications.

Do not adjust any of your medications without first talking with your healthcare provider.

Store any extra, unopened Novolog in your refrigerator. But never keep it in the door, because the temperature there changes each time the fridge is opened.

The Novolog you are currently using does not have to be refrigerated, but it must be used within 28 days after it is opened. Do not use Novolog past the expiration date printed on the bottle or pen. Never store any insulin in a place that is too hot or too cold. And never use Novolog that is yellowish.

When you have Diabetes, Novolog can help you control your blood glucose and help you maintain your overall health. If you have any questions about Novolog, ask your healthcare provider and pharmacist for more information.