

**Question from the clinic:** “I’ve been seeing several long-acting and rapid-acting insulins listed as *biosimilar*, *interchangeable*, or *follow-on*—like Semglee, Rezvoglar, Basaglar, and Admelog. I’m confused about which ones can be automatically substituted at the pharmacy and whether I should be writing for the brand name (like Lantus or Humalog) or for the biosimilar.

Can you clarify how these insulins differ, and what I should consider when prescribing?”

**Answer:**

Great question — the terms *biosimilar*, *interchangeable*, and *follow-on* describe **how the product was approved by the FDA**, which determines whether a pharmacist can substitute it automatically or not.

<b>Definition:</b>	<b>Interchangeable insulins:</b> Completed extra FDA studies showing that patients can switch between the reference insulin and the biosimilar without added risk.	<b>Biosimilars:</b> Clinically equivalent but <b>not interchangeable and cannot be automatically substituted</b>	<b>Follow-on insulins</b> Approved under older “follow-on” rules before insulin was regulated as a biologic.
Substitution Allowed in Wisconsin?	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NO</b>
Details:	Pharmacists <b>may substitute</b> these when they are <b>lower cost</b> , and must notify prescriber within 5 days of the product dispensed	Prescribers must write for the specific biosimilar by name.	Prescribers must write for the specific biosimilar by name.
<b>REFERENCE INSULIN</b>			
<b>Lantus (insulin glargine)</b>	<b>Semglee (insulin glargine-yfgn)</b> <b>Rezvoglar (insulin glargine-aglr)</b>		<b>Basaglar</b>
<b>Novolog (insulin aspart)</b>	<b>Kirsty (insulin aspart-xjhz)</b>	<b>Merilog (insulin aspart-szjj)</b>	
<b>Humalog (insulin lispro)</b>			<b>Admelog</b>

**Prescribing tips:**

- If you want the pharmacy to select the lowest-cost equivalent automatically, write for the **reference product** (e.g., “insulin glargine”) **and allow substitution.**
- If you want the patient to stay on a specific brand (e.g., Basaglar, Admelog, Lantus, Humalog), include “No substitutions.”
- When switching patients, confirm formulary coverage and counsel them that interchangeables are FDA-approved to perform the same as the brand-name reference.

**See next page for**

**Chart of all available single product insulin to date**

<b>ACTION/ CLASSIFICATION</b>	<b>Generic Name</b>	<b>Brand Name</b>	<b>Forms</b>	<b>BIOSIMILAR: Needs Rx to specify product</b>	<b>INTERCHANGEABLE: Can be Substituted at the pharmacy level</b>
<b>ULTRA-RAPID ACTING</b>	Insulin Lispro- aabc (U-100 and U-200)	Lyumjev	Prefilled pen	None	
	Insulin-aspart	Fiasp	Prefilled pen	None	
<b>RAPID ACTING</b>	Insulin aspart	Novolog	Vial, Prefilled pen	Merilog (insulin- aspart-szjj)	Kirsty (insulin aspart- xjhz)
	Insulin glulisine	Apidra	Vial, Pen	None	
	Insulin lispro	Humalog and Admelog	Vial, Prefilled pen	None	
<b>RAPID ACTING: INHALED</b>	Inhaled insulin	Afrezza	Inhaler cartridges	None	
<b>SHORT ACTING (Human)</b>	Insulin regular (human)	Humulin R, Novolin R, ReliOn R	Vial (U-100, also U-500 formulations)	Various unbranded human insulins available	
<b>INTERMEDIATE ACTING</b>	NPH (human)	Humulin N, Novolin N, ReliOn N	Vial, Pen (limited)	Generic/unbranded available	
<b>LONG ACTING/BASAL</b>	Insulin glargine	Lantus, Toujeo U-300	Vial, Prefilled pen	Basaglar	Semglee (insulin glargine-yfgn) Rezvoglar (insulin glargine-aglr)
<b>ULTRA-LONG ACTING</b>	Insulin degludec	Tresiba	Prefilled Pen	None	