Another Once Weekly Insulin

The Basics:

- **WHAT:**
  - Insulin Efsitora alfa-gobe (Onswik®) is the SECOND once-weekly ultra-long-acting basal injectable insulin analog to be FDA approved for adults with type 2 diabetes. *(See comparison to insulin Icodec in table below, or details in the WAFP June newsletter)*
- **HOW:**
  - Efsitora is an engineered fusion protein: the insulin molecule is fused to an immunoglobulin (the IgG Fc region) to extend the half-life. This mechanism leverages the body's natural FcRn cellular recycling pathway to evade degradation and maintain a steady ~ 17-day half-life by recycling the insulin back into circulation.
  - Clinical Trial Data: (compared to standard once daily basal insulin)
    - Non-inferior A1C reduction
    - Risk of hypoglycemia similar
  - Dosing and Titration (2 options)
    - FIXED DOSE:
      - Starting Dose: 100 units subcutaneously once weekly (same day/week)
      - After 4 weeks, titrate sequentially to fasting goal of 130 mg/dL (without hypoglycemia)
        - Sequential dosing suggested:150 units, 250 units, 400 units
        - Or titrate by 20 to 40 units per week as necessary
    - FLEXIBLE DOSAGE titration:
      - Week 1: 300-unit one-time dose in the first week ONLY
      - Week 2: 100 units
      - Week 3 and subsequent: adjust by 20 to 40 units per week as necessary
  - Switching from once or twice-daily basal insulin: Start on the day after the last dose of daily insulin, with close monitoring. See PI Table 3 for detailed dosing calculations.
  - If a dose is missed:
    - Give the dose within 4 days, then continue on regularly scheduled day.
    - If > 4 days, restart as the new dosing day or wait until dosing day with increased monitoring

- **ROLE in therapy: (same as insulin Icodec)**

May be valuable for persons with:	**AVOID using if:**
- Type 2 diabetes that would benefit from less injections, and a simplified regimen - Daily injection fatigue - Hesitancy to start insulin - Need for basal insulin only (not at risk for mixing up rapid or short acting with long-acting pen) - Ability to self-monitor with meter or CGM - Unstable access to refrigeration	- < 18 years old - Type 1 diabetes (not approved for use yet) - Hypoglycemia unawareness - Frequent acute illness - DKA - person needs frequent basal insulin adjustments due to highly variable dietary and physical activity changes

Weekly Insulin Comparison Table:

Insulin:	**Efsitora (Onswik®)**	**Icodec (Awiqli®)**
Manufacturer:	Eli Lilly	Novo Nordisk
Clinical Trial:	QWINT	ONWARDS
Indication:	Adults with type 2 diabetes	
Mechanism of Action:	Insulin fused to an IgG Fc domain that activates the FcRn recycling pathway, preventing degradation and extending insulin activity	Fatty acid chain added to insulin to reversibly bind albumin, creating a circulating depot that slowly releases free insulin
Half-Life	~ 17 days	~ 7 days
Dosage Form:	Pre-Filled KwikPen: • U-500 and U-1000 • Supplied as: ○ 3 ml U-500 (1500 units) ○ 3 ml U-1000 (3000 units)	Pre-filled FlexTouch Pen: • U-700 (700 units/ml) • Supplied as: ○ 1 ml (700 units) ○ 1.5 ml (1050 units) ○ 3 ml (2100 units)
Dose Increments:	U-500: 5 units U-1000: 10 units	10 units
Max single injection:	U-500: 400 units U-1000: 800 units	700 units
Storage after first use:	**16 weeks** in refrigerator or **14 days** at room temp < 86F	**12 weeks** in refrigerator or at room temp < 86F
Price: (goodrx.com)	N/A – just approved	~ $55/month with savings program: https://www.novocare.com/diabetes/products/awiqli/savings-offer.html

Resources:

- Onswik package insert. Eli Lilly and Company. 9/2026. https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2017/209196s000lbl.pdf