

YOU SHOULD KNOW . . .

Physician Education Regarding Upcoming Basal Insulin Interchange: Insulin glargine (Lantus) to Insulin detemir (Levemir)

Monday, April 25, 2011

SETON GLYCEMIC TARGET:

Pre-meal blood glucose < 140 mg/dL and random blood glucose < 180 mg/dL.

If patient is new to insulin, initiate insulin detemir (Levemir):

- Calculate total daily dose of insulin (TDD) based on actual body weight [0.3 -0.7 units x actual body weight (kg) = TDD]
 - 1) Insulin detemir (Levemir) dose = 50% of TDD and given once or twice daily [similar to insulin glargine (Lantus)]
 - 2) Insulin aspart (Novolog) dose = 50% of TDD divided by 3 given with each meal

If the patient is taking insulin glargine (Lantus) at home:

- Convert insulin glargine (Lantus) dose to insulin detemir (Levemir) using 1:1 unit dose conversion. Reassess the regimen daily and adjust promptly.

Other Considerations:

- Two injections are required when the dose of insulin detemir (Levemir) exceeds 60 units:
 - 1) The insulin detemir pen delivers a maximum dose of 60 units
 - 2) For doses greater than 50 units, it is advisable to give basal insulin (glargine or detemir) as two injections to maximize absorption. Administering the injections once daily or BID is based on physician/patient preference.
- Make dose modifications based on anticipated changes in patient's activity level, diet, previous home regimen and glycemic control (hemoglobin A1c).

Discharge Considerations:

- At discharge, consider patient preference and insurance formulary when selecting the basal insulin at discharge.
- Reconcile insulin orders carefully. **The patient should be discharged on one basal insulin only.**



ALSO, PLEASE NOTE REGARDING THE NETWORK ADULT SUBCUTANEOUS INSULIN ORDER SET:

As always, please consider initiating the Network Adult Subcutaneous Insulin Order Set (basal-bolus insulin regimen) for all patients who are admitted with diabetes.

http://intranet.seton.net/clinicalres/aspDocs/network_subcutaneous_insulin_orders.asp

(Link is available in-house only.)