

# CAROLINA FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS, INC. PROTOCOL

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**TITLE:** PRC-110 Automatic Substitution of Insulin Products

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**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 1/28/2025

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**SECTION:** Clinical Protocols

**REFERENCE POLICY:** N/A

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**RESPONSIBLE CHIEF OF STAFF:** Chief Medical Officer

**RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEE:** Pharmacy & Therapeutics CIT

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**REVIEWED:** 9/23/2025

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## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this protocol is to define the parameters for automatic therapeutic drug substitution of insulin products that are allowed in the pharmacies of Carolina Family Health Centers, Inc. (CFHC, Inc.).

## II. PROTOCOL

The need for automatic therapeutic drug substitution may arise in a variety of circumstances, including product removal from the market, patient ineligibility for a bulk or medication assistance program, or when a prescriber writes for a non-formulary insulin product. This protocol is not intended to outline or define generic/biosimilar substitution referenced in *PHR-300.04 Product Selection*.

For new and refill prescriptions for insulin products originating from CFHC, Inc. prescribers, the pharmacy may automatically substitute when needed as described below.

### BASAL INSULINS:

**Product selection:** Any of the following basal insulins (or their bioequivalent product) may be substituted for another

- **Levemir**
- **Lantus**
- **Tresiba** U-100 or U-200 based on dose to allow patient once daily injection
- **Basaglar**
- **Semglee**
- **Toujeo / Toujeo Max** based on dose to allow patient once daily injection

### **Dose selection**<sup>1</sup>:

- Directions for the substituted insulin are unit-for-unit with the same dosing frequency.
- Exceptions:
  - For twice daily Levemir prescriptions, the total daily dose (TDD) shall be calculated, and directions shall state “Inject [TDD] once daily at the same time every day.”

- For twice daily prescriptions of other basal insulin products, contact the prescriber or clinical pharmacist practitioner (CPP).

### **RAPID-ACTING INSULINS:**

**Product selection:** Any of the following rapid-acting insulins (or their bioequivalent product) may be substituted for another

- **Humalog**
- **Novolog**
- **Apidra**
- **Admelog**
- **Fiasp** – ultra rapid
- **Lyumjev** – ultra rapid

**Dose selection:**

- Directions for the substituted insulin are unit-for-unit with the same dosing frequency.

Per *PHR-300.18 Automatic Substitution*, pharmacists provide patient counseling on the switch. Additionally, pharmacy staff update the patient's electronic health record (EHR) with the substituted prescription information and route the encounter to the prescriber for notification. Prescribers have the right to override the automatic therapeutic drug substitution.

### **III. DEFINITION**

- **Automatic therapeutic drug substitution:** the pharmacist-initiated substitution of one medication for a therapeutically equivalent [but different] medication without prior prescriber approval

### **IV. REFERENCE**

- <sup>1</sup> Clinical Resource, *How to Switch Insulin Products. Pharmacist's Letter/Pharmacy Technician's Letter/Prescriber's Letter*. May 2023. [390524]

This protocol shall remain in effect for all patients of Carolina Family Health Centers, Inc., effective 09/23/2025 until rescinded.



Abrahan Chaparro, MD  
Chief Medical Officer

9/25/25

Date