



## **Alternative insulin therapy for adults living with diabetes listed on the PBS from 1 April**

*Toujeo® (insulin glargine 300 units/mL) now listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme*

Sydney, Australia, 01 April, 2018 – Sanofi is pleased to announce the listing of Toujeo® (insulin glargine 300 units/mL) on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from 1 April 2018. Toujeo is indicated for the treatment of Diabetes Mellitus in adults.<sup>1</sup>

Diabetes affects 1.7 million Australians<sup>2</sup> and over 385,000 Australians who are living with diabetes require insulin treatment.<sup>3</sup>

Toujeo is a long-acting insulin treatment, containing the active substance *insulin glargine*, which is used to reduce high blood sugar levels in adults with diabetes.<sup>4</sup>

Endocrinologist and Diabetes Specialist, Dr Sultan Linjawi said it was important that people who are living with insulin dependent diabetes have access to an appropriate treatment regimen.

“Diabetes is a progressive disease and over time, a patient’s management plan and medication will change, according to how much insulin the body is producing,” he said.

“When not managed, diabetes can be a very serious condition. Long-term complications can include heart attack, stroke, kidney disease, limb amputation and blindness. Even if these things don’t occur high sugars leads to more fatigue and a less enjoyable life.”

“For this reason it’s important that additional therapies are available to clinicians when they are considering the most appropriate diabetes management options for their patients,” added Dr Linjawi.

Diabetes Australia CEO, Professor Greg Johnson, welcomed the PBS listing of Toujeo noting this will make an alternative form of long acting insulin affordable for adults with diabetes requiring insulin therapy.

“Most people think insulin injections are only needed for children with type 1 diabetes – but over 365,000 adults with diabetes need insulin and two thirds of these people have type 2 diabetes” Professor Johnson said.

“Not everyone responds to a particular type of insulin in the same way – that is why alternative forms of insulin and choice are important”.



Sanofi has an extensive history in diabetes care and works closely with the broader healthcare community dedicated to diabetes management.

“It is important that we continue to make alternative treatment options accessible for people with diabetes. We are pleased that Toujeo has now been added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for Australians living with diabetes”, said Dr Paul King, Medical Chair for Sanofi Australia and New Zealand.

Toujeo is available as a 300 units/mL solution for subcutaneous injection in a pre-filled pen.

**PBS Information:** Toujeo SoloStar is listed on the PBS as a long-acting insulin analogue for the treatment of adults with type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

**Minimum Product Information: Toujeo** (insulin glargine 300 units/mL)

**Indications:** Treatment of diabetes mellitus in adults. **Contraindications:** Hypersensitivity to insulin glargine or any of the excipients. **Precautions:** Not recommended for treatment of diabetic ketoacidosis; hypoglycaemia; switching between insulin glargine 100 U/mL and Toujeo; switching between other insulins and Toujeo; intercurrent illness; insulin antibodies; insulin label must always be checked before each injection to avoid medication errors between Toujeo and other insulins; pregnancy category B3; lactation; careful glucose monitoring and dose adjustments may be necessary in elderly patients; not studied in children; renal and hepatic impairment. **Interactions:** Oral antidiabetic medicinal products; cardiovascular, analgaesic, anti-inflammatory, neurological, antipsychotic agents (see full PI); antibiotics; corticosteroids, other hormonal therapies (see full PI); diuretics; protease inhibitors; sympathomimetic agents; lithium; alcohol; sympatholytics including  $\beta$ -blockers; others, see full PI. **Adverse Effects:** Hypoglycaemia; visual impairment; injection site reactions; others, see full PI. **Dosage and Administration:** Subcutaneous, once daily. Not for intravenous use. Dose adjustment may be required e.g. if patient’s weight or life-style changes or change in timing of insulin dose. The desired blood glucose levels as well as doses and timing of anti-diabetic medication must be determined and adjusted individually. Instruct patients to never re-use a needle. Toujeo must not be drawn from the cartridge of the pre-filled pen into a syringe. Insulin glargine 100 U/mL and Toujeo are not bioequivalent and are not directly interchangeable. Toujeo must not be diluted or mixed with any other insulin products. When switching from insulin glargine 100 U/mL or other basal insulin products to Toujeo, dose may need to be adjusted. Close metabolic monitoring is recommended during the switch and in the initial weeks thereafter.  $\geq 18$  years. Date reviewed: 1 July 2015 Reference Document: PI, 30 June 2015.

A copy of the Consumer Medicines Information is available at <http://www.guildlink.com.au/gc/ws/sw/cmi.cfm?product=swctoujo10116> or by calling 1800 818 806.



## **References**

1. Toujeo Product Information
2. Diabetes Australia website <https://www.diabetesaustralia.com.au/diabetes-in-australia> Date accessed 10 April 2018
3. Diabetes Australia Insulin Therapy Factsheet, available online via: <https://static.diabetesaustralia.com.au/s/fileassets/diabetes-australia/a150ae1e-0f04-4851-92b5-de0327129a77.pdf> Date accessed 19 March 2018
4. Toujeo Consumer Medicines Information (CMI) <http://www.guildlink.com.au/gc/ws/sw/cmi.cfm?product=swctoujo10116>

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sanofi-aventis australia pty ltd trading as Sanofi, ABN 31 008 558 807, Talavera Corporate Centre, Building D, 12–24 Talavera Road, Macquarie Park, NSW 2113  
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## **Media Contacts:**

Hannah Rayment  
Senior Account Supervisor  
Weber Shandwick  
**P** +61 2 9994 4492  
**M** 0425 329 921  
**E** [hrayment@webershandwick.com](mailto:hrayment@webershandwick.com)

Peter Bayliss  
Communications Manager  
Sanofi Australia & New Zealand  
**P** +61 2 8666 2489  
**M** +61 (0) 417 861 984  
**E** [Peter.Bayliss@sanofi.com](mailto:Peter.Bayliss@sanofi.com)

## **About Sanofi:**

Sanofi is dedicated to supporting people through their health challenges. We are a global biopharmaceutical company focused on human health. We prevent illness with vaccines, provide innovative treatments to fight pain and ease suffering. We stand by the few who suffer from rare diseases and the millions with long-term chronic conditions.

With more than 100,000 people in 100 countries, Sanofi is transforming scientific innovation into healthcare solutions around the globe.

## **Additional Notes**

Dr Sultan Linjawi received no honoraria for assisting with the preparation of this press release. The opinions expressed in the release are his own. Dr Linjawi has been briefed by Sanofi on the approved use of this product. Dr Linjawi has served on Sanofi's advisory boards.

Diabetes Australia CEO, Greg Johnson, received no compensation or funding for assisting with the preparation of this press release. The opinions expressed in the release are on behalf of Diabetes Australia.