

**PHARMACOKINETIC  
AND  
PHARMACODYNAMIC  
SIMILARITY**

**SINGLE-DOSE EUGLYCEMIC  
CLAMP STUDY DEMONSTRATING  
PHARMACOKINETIC AND  
PHARMACODYNAMIC SIMILARITY  
BETWEEN TRURAPI<sup>®</sup> AND US-, EU-  
AND UK-APPROVED VERSIONS  
OF INSULIN ASPART IN PATIENTS  
WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES**

Prescribing information can be found at the end of this document.

Kapitza C, et al. *Diabetes Technol Ther.* 2020;22(4):278–284.

**TRURAPI<sup>®</sup> IS A RAPID-ACTING  
INSULIN ANALOG INDICATED  
FOR THE TREATMENT OF  
DIABETES MELLITUS IN ADULTS,  
ADOLESCENTS AND CHILDREN  
AGED 1 YEAR AND ABOVE.<sup>1</sup>**

**KEY TAKEAWAY**

In T1DM patients, Trurapi<sup>®</sup> demonstrated similar PK exposure profiles and glucodynamic potency with NovoLog<sup>®</sup>, and NovoRapid<sup>®</sup>.<sup>2</sup>

**BACKGROUND**

Trurapi<sup>®</sup> is the first biosimilar of NovoRapid<sup>®</sup> approved in the UK.<sup>1</sup> It is a rapid-acting human insulin analog of recombinant DNA origin, which is the active ingredient of the currently approved market products in the US, NovoLog<sup>®</sup> and NovoLog Mix<sup>®</sup> and NovoRapid<sup>®</sup> and NovoMix<sup>®</sup> in the EU and UK.<sup>2</sup>

**WHY THIS  
MATTERS**

The rising cost of insulin has and remains a concern for healthcare providers.<sup>2</sup> As biological medicines are currently the largest cost in the NHS total medicines budget, the use of biosimilars has been estimated to offer the NHS up to £300m of savings per year.<sup>3</sup>

The development of new biosimilars, such as Trurapi<sup>®</sup>, can help patients have greater access to care with proven pharmaceutical quality and provides increased value for the NHS.<sup>2–4</sup>

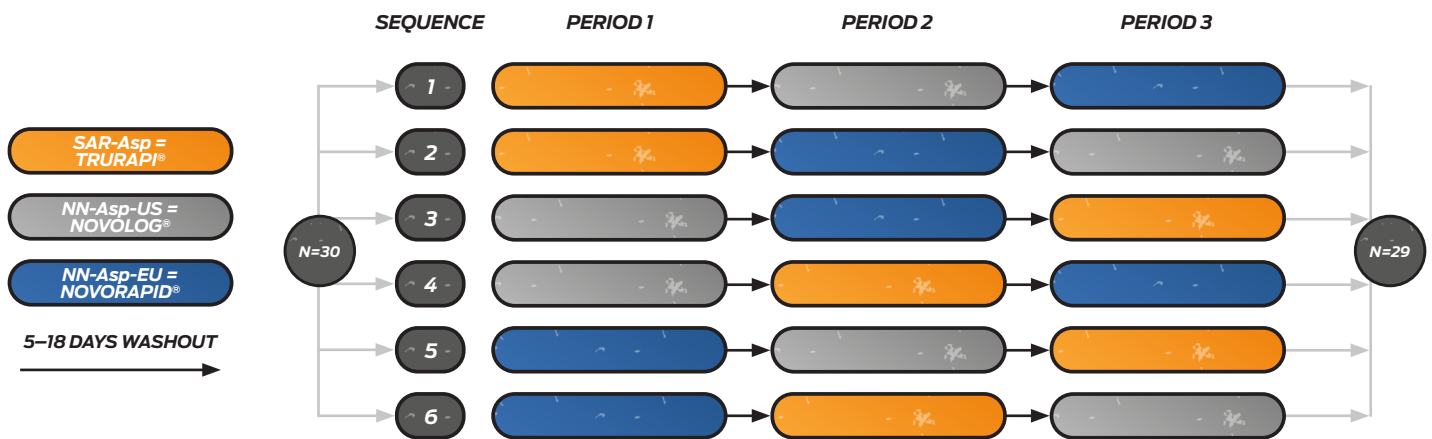
# STUDY AIMS AND DESIGN

## STUDY OBJECTIVE

To compare the PK/PD profile of Trurapi<sup>®</sup>, US-approved NovoLog<sup>®</sup> and UK-approved NovoRapid<sup>®</sup>.

## STUDY DESIGN

A single-centre, randomised, double-blind, 3-treatment, 3-period, single-dose, euglycemic clamp crossover study in 30 adult male subjects with T1DM.<sup>2\*</sup> Subjects received 0.3 U/kg of each treatment under fasted conditions and underwent a 12-hour euglycemic clamp technique to assess PK and PD activity for up to 12 hours.<sup>2</sup>



Subjects were randomised to one of six treatment sequences. Subjects received a single 0.3 U/kg dose of each treatment on day 1 of period 1, followed by a 12-hour euglycemic clamp procedure. Following a washout period of 5-18 days, subjects received a single dose of the second insulin treatment on day 1 of period 2, followed by a 12-hour euglycemic clamp procedure. The same procedure was repeated in period 3. Subjects returned for a follow-up visit 5 to 14 days after completion of the final clamp procedure.<sup>2</sup>

## STUDY ENDPOINTS

### Primary endpoints:

For PK profile: the area under the plasma insulin concentration–time curve from time zero to the last quantifiable concentration ( $INS-AUC_{last}$ ), and extrapolated to infinity ( $INS-AUC_{inf}$ ), maximum plasma insulin concentration ( $INS-C_{max}$ ).<sup>2</sup>

For PD profile: the area under the body weight-standardised glucose infusion rate (GIR)–time curve from 0 to 12 hours ( $GIR-AUC_{0-12h}$ ).<sup>2</sup>

### Secondary endpoint: $GIR_{max}$ .<sup>2</sup>

BMI, body mass index; GIR, glucose infusion rate;  $GIR-AUC_{0-12h}$ , glucose infusion rate vs. time curve between 0 and 12 hours;  $GIR_{max}$ , maximum smoothed body weight standardised glucose infusion rate;  $INS-AUC_{inf}$ , area under the concentration vs. time curve extrapolated to infinity;  $INS-AUC_{last}$ , area under the concentration vs. time curve from time zero to the time corresponding to the last concentration above the limit of quantification;  $INS-C_{max}$ , maximum observed plasma insulin aspart concentration; NN-Asp-EU, NovoRapid<sup>®</sup>; NN-Asp-US, NovoLog<sup>®</sup>; PD, pharmacodynamic; PK, pharmacokinetic; SAR-Asp, Trurapi<sup>®</sup>; T1DM, Type 1 diabetes mellitus; UK, United Kingdom; US, United States.

\*Study included 18-65 year olds with T1DM (>1 year) with a BMI of 18-30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, a fasting negative serum C-peptide level <0.3 nmol/L, a glycated haemoglobin level ≤75 mmol/mol (≤9%), a total insulin dose of <1.2 U/(kg/day), and a stable insulin regimen for at least 2 months before the study.

# KEY FINDINGS

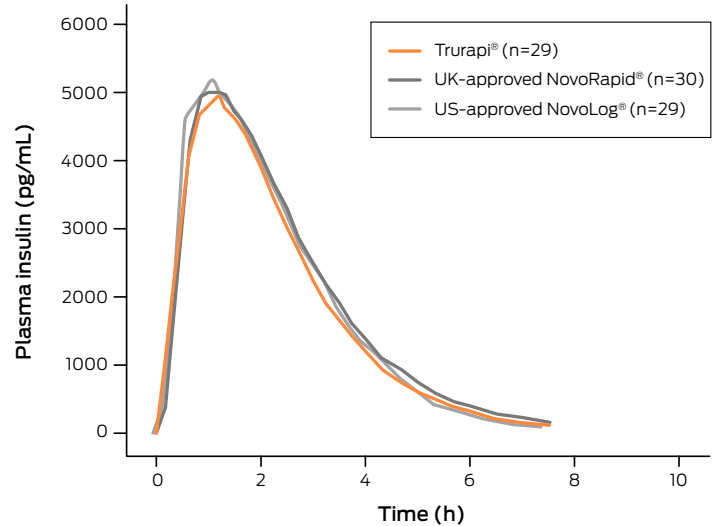
## KEY FINDINGS

**In T1DM Trurapi® demonstrated similar PK/PD profile with NovoLog®, and NovoRapid®**

- The pharmacokinetic profiles of the three insulin aspart products were virtually superimposable
- The 90% CIs of the treatment ratios for  $INS-C_{max}$ ,  $INS-AUC_{last}$ , and  $INS-AUC_{inf}$  were entirely within the predefined acceptance interval of 0.80 to 1.25

## PHARMACOKINETIC PROFILE<sup>1</sup>

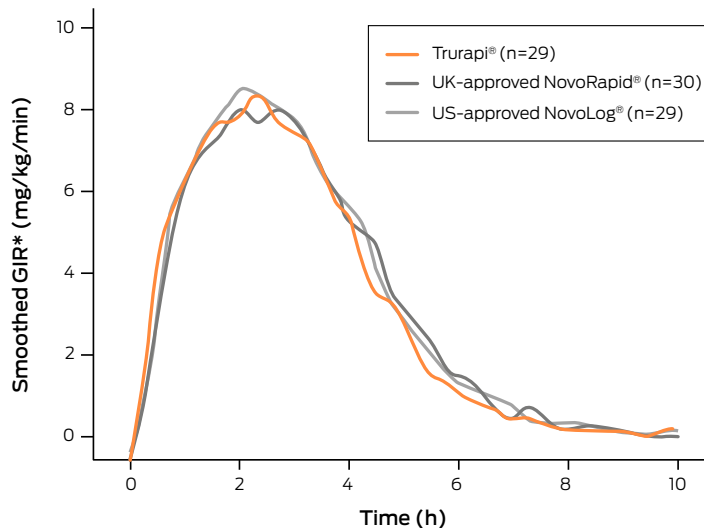
Plasma insulin mean concentration vs. time profile



Graph adapted from Kapitza C, et al. 2020.

## PHARMACODYNAMIC PROFILE<sup>1</sup>

Glucose infusion rate\* vs. time curve



Graph adapted from Kapitza C, et al. 2020.

- The pharmacodynamic profiles of the three insulin aspart products were similar, as shown in plots of the median of percentage of cumulative glucose infusion based on  $GIR-AUC_{0-12}$  vs. time 12h
- The extent of glucose-lowering effect, as indicated by  $GIR-AUC_{0-12}$  and  $GIR_{max}$ , was similar among the three 12h treatments
- The 90% CIs and even the 95% CIs for the pairwise treatment ratio entirely within the predefined interval of 0.80 to 1.25, thereby demonstrating equipotency of the three treatments

CI, confidence interval;  $INS-AUC_{inf}$ , area under the concentration vs. time curve extrapolated to infinity;  $INS-AUC_{last}$ , area under the concentration vs. time curve from time zero to the time corresponding to the last concentration above the limit of quantification;  $INS-C_{max}$ , maximum observed plasma insulin aspart concentration; GIR, glucose infusion rate;  $GIR_{max}$ , maximum smoothed body weight standardised glucose infusion rate;  $GIR-AUC_{0-12h}$ , glucose infusion rate vs. time curve between 0 and 12 hours; PD, pharmacodynamic; PK, pharmacokinetic; T1DM, Type 1 diabetes mellitus; UK, United Kingdom; US, United States.

\*Mean smoothed body weight standardised GIR. This was based on smoothed locally weighted regression in smoothed scattered (LOESS) plots; SAS, PROC LOESS, factor 0.06.

# KEY FINDINGS

## SAFETY FINDINGS

All three insulin aspart products were well tolerated, with few AEs. The most commonly reported TEAE was vomiting, reported by three subjects (one subject each following administration of SAR-Asp, NN-Asp-US, and NN-Asp-EU). One injection site reaction TEAE (erythema at injection site) was reported following administration of SAR-Asp. The event was rated as mild in intensity and resolved spontaneously.<sup>2</sup>

## STUDY LIMITATIONS

A limitation of the euglycemic glucose clamp technique is that it is designed for optimising the sensitivity for identifying potential differences between the investigated insulins rather than at establishing real-life conditions. The subjects of the study were also limited to males.<sup>2</sup>

## CONCLUSION

- Trurapi<sup>®</sup> demonstrated a similar PK exposure and glucodynamic activity to the commercially available US, EU, and UK insulin aspart formulations
- The overall PD effects of the three insulin aspart products were generally similar, displaying a short time-action profile and the PK profiles were virtually superimposable<sup>2</sup>

AE, adverse events; EU, European Union; NN-Asp-EU, NovoRapid<sup>®</sup>; NN-Asp-US, NovoLog<sup>®</sup>; PD, pharmacodynamic; PK, pharmacokinetic; SAR-Asp, Trurapi<sup>®</sup>; TEAE, treatment emergent adverse event; UK, United Kingdom; US, United States.

**References:** 1. Trurapi<sup>®</sup> SmPC. April 2023. 2. Kapitza C, *et al.* *Diabetes Technol Ther.* 2020;22(4):278–284. 3. NHS. Biosimilar Medicines. Available at: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/medicines-2/biosimilar-medicines/>. Date accessed: April 2023. 4. EMA. Biosimilar Medicines. Available at: [http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/medicines/general/general\\_content\\_001832.jsp](http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/medicines/general/general_content_001832.jsp). Date accessed: April 2023.



# PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

## TRURAPI® PI

**Prescribing Information: Trurapi** ▼ (Insulin aspart 100 units/ml)  
Please refer to the Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) before prescribing.

**Presentation:** Trurapi 100 units/ml (equivalent to 3.5 mg) solution for injection in a vial, each containing 10ml of solution for injection, equivalent to 1000 units. Trurapi 100 units/ml solution for injection in a cartridge or in a pre-filled pen, each containing 3ml of solution for injection, equivalent to 300 units insulin aspart.

**Indication:** The treatment of diabetes mellitus in adults, adolescents and children aged 1 year and above.

**Dosage and Administration:** Trurapi is a rapid-acting insulin analogue, normally used in combination with intermediate-acting or long-acting insulin. Trurapi should not be mixed with any other insulin. The dosage should be determined by the physician in accordance with individual patient needs. Blood glucose monitoring and insulin dose adjustments are recommended to achieve optimal glycaemic control. The individual insulin requirement in adults and children is usually 0.5–1.0 unit/kg/day. In a basal-bolus treatment regimen 50–70% of this requirement may be provided by Trurapi and the remainder by intermediate-acting or long-acting insulin. Adjustment of dose may be necessary if patients undertake increased physical activity, change their usual diet or during concomitant illness (see Precautions and Warnings).

**Transfer from other insulin medicinal products:** When transferring from other insulin medicinal products, adjustment of the Trurapi and basal insulin dose may be necessary as Trurapi has a faster onset and a shorter duration of action than soluble human insulin. When injected subcutaneously into the abdominal wall, the onset of action will occur within 10–20 minutes of injection. The maximum effect is exerted 1–3 hours after the injection with duration of action of 3–5 hours.

**Subcutaneous administration:** This should be in the upper arms, thighs, buttocks or abdomen and injection sites should always be rotated within the same region in order to reduce the risk of lipodystrophy and cutaneous amyloidosis. Subcutaneous injection in the abdominal wall ensures a faster absorption than other injection sites and faster onset of action of insulin aspart is maintained regardless of the injection site. The duration of action will vary according to the dose, injection site, blood flow, temperature and level of physical activity. Due to the faster onset of action, insulin aspart should generally be given immediately before a meal. When necessary insulin aspart can be given soon after a meal. **Trurapi in cartridges:** only suitable for subcutaneous injections from a specified type of reusable pen. **Trurapi in pre-filled pen:** only suitable for subcutaneous injections. Trurapi in pre-filled pen delivers 1–80 units in increments of 1 unit. Patients must visually verify the dialled units on the dose counter of the pen. Therefore, the requirement for patients to self-inject is that they can read the dose counter on the pen. Patients who are blind or have poor vision must be instructed to always get help/assistance from another person who has good vision and is trained in using the insulin device. **Administration via an insulin infusion pump (Trurapi vials only):** CSII should be administered in the abdominal wall and infusion sites should be rotated. Patients using CSII should be comprehensively instructed in the use of the pump system and use the correct reservoir and tubing for the pump. The infusion set (tubing and cannula) should be changed in accordance with the instructions in the product information supplied with the infusion set. An alternative insulin delivery method should be available in case of pump system failure. **Intravenous administration (Trurapi vials only):** This should be carried out by physicians or other healthcare staff following normal clinical practice for intravenous injections. Monitoring of blood glucose is necessary during insulin infusion.

**Special Populations: Elderly patients (≥ 65 years old) and renal/hepatic impairment:** Trurapi can be used in elderly patients and patients with renal or hepatic impairment; glucose monitoring should be intensified and dose adjusted on an individual basis. **Paediatric population:** Trurapi can be used in adolescents and children aged 1 year and above in preference to soluble human insulin when a rapid onset of action might be beneficial, for example, in the timing of the injections in relation to meals. The safety and efficacy in children below 1 year of age have not been established.

**Contraindications:** Hypersensitivity to insulin aspart or to any of the excipients.

**Precautions and Warnings: Traceability:** The name and the batch number of the administered product should be clearly recorded to improve the traceability.

**Injection technique:** Patients must be instructed to perform continuous rotation of the injection site to reduce the risk of developing lipodystrophy and cutaneous amyloidosis. There is a potential risk of delayed insulin absorption and worsened glycaemic control following insulin injections at sites with these reactions. A sudden change in the injection site to an unaffected area has been reported to result in hypoglycaemia. Blood glucose monitoring is recommended after the change in the injection site, and dose adjustment of antidiabetic medicinal products may be considered.

**Hyperglycaemia:** Inadequate dosing or discontinuation of treatment, especially in type 1 diabetes, may lead to hyperglycaemia and diabetic ketoacidosis. Usually the first symptoms of hyperglycaemia develop gradually over a period of hours or days. They include thirst, increased frequency of urination, nausea, vomiting, drowsiness, flushed dry skin, dry mouth, loss of appetite as well as acetone odour of breath. In type 1 diabetes, untreated hyperglycaemic events eventually lead to diabetic ketoacidosis, which is potentially lethal.

**Hypoglycaemia:** Omission of a meal or unplanned, strenuous physical exercise may lead to hypoglycaemia. Especially in children, care should be taken to match insulin doses (especially in basal-bolus regimens) with food intake, physical activities and current blood glucose level in order to minimise the risk of hypoglycaemia. Hypoglycaemia may occur if the insulin dose is too high in relation to the insulin requirement and in case of hypoglycaemia or if hypoglycaemia is suspected insulin aspart must not be injected. After stabilisation of patient's blood glucose adjustment of the dose should be considered. Patients whose blood glucose control is greatly improved may experience a change in their usual warning symptoms of hypoglycaemia, and usual warning symptoms may disappear in patients with longstanding diabetes, so patients should be advised accordingly. Hypoglycaemia in rapid-acting insulin analogues may occur earlier after an injection when compared with soluble human insulin and since insulin aspart should be administered immediately in relation to a meal, the rapid onset should be considered in patients with concomitant diseases or treatment where a delayed absorption of food might be expected. Concomitant illness usually increases the patient's insulin requirements and concomitant diseases in the kidney, liver or affecting the adrenal, pituitary or thyroid gland can require changes in the insulin dose. When patients are transferred between different types of insulin medicinal products, the early warning symptoms of hypoglycaemia may change or become less pronounced than those experienced with their previous insulin. **Transfer from other insulin medicinal products:** Should be done under strict medical supervision. If dose adjustment is needed, it may occur with the first dose or during the first few weeks or months. Close MAT-XU-2301609 (v1.0) Date of prep: April 2023 glucose monitoring is recommended during the transfer and in the initial weeks thereafter. **Injection site reactions (including lipodystrophy and cutaneous amyloidosis):** As with any insulin therapy, injection site reactions may occur and include pain, redness, hives, inflammation, bruising, swelling and itching. Continuous rotation of the injection site within a given area reduces the risk of developing these reactions and these usually resolve in a few days to a few weeks. Continuous rotation of the injection site also reduces the risk of developing lipodystrophy and cutaneous amyloidosis. Blood glucose monitoring is recommended after the change in the injection site due to risk of hypoglycaemia, and dose adjustment of antidiabetic medications may be considered. On rare occasions, injection site reactions may require discontinuation of insulin aspart. **Combination with pioglitazone:** Cases of cardiac failure have been reported when pioglitazone was used in combination with insulin, especially in patients with risk factors for development of cardiac heart failure. Pioglitazone should be discontinued if any deterioration in cardiac symptoms occurs. **Medication errors:** Patients must be instructed to always check the insulin label before each injection to avoid accidental mix-ups between Trurapi and other insulin medicinal products. **Insulin antibodies:**

Insulin administration may cause insulin antibodies to form, which in rare cases may necessitate adjustment of the insulin dose to correct a tendency to hyper- or hypoglycaemia.

**Travel:** Patients should seek physician advice before travelling to different time zones as this may mean that the insulin and meals may be taken at different times. **Sodium:** This medicinal product contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23mg) per dose, that is to say essentially "sodium free".

**Interactions:** Several medicinal products are known to interact with the glucose metabolism. Substances that may reduce insulin requirements: Oral antidiabetic medicinal products, monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOI), betablockers, angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, salicylates, anabolic steroids and sulphonamides. **Substances that may increase insulin requirements:** Oral contraceptives, thiazides, glucocorticoids, thyroid hormones, sympathomimetics, growth hormone and danazol. **Other potential interactions of note:** Octreotide/lanreotide may either increase or decrease the insulin requirement. Beta-blockers may mask the symptoms of hypoglycaemia. Alcohol may intensify or reduce the hypoglycaemic effect of insulin.

**Pregnancy and Breast-Feeding: Pregnancy:** It is essential to maintain good control of the insulin-treated (insulin-independent or gestational diabetes) patient throughout pregnancy and intensified blood glucose control and monitoring of pregnant women with diabetes are recommended throughout pregnancy and when contemplating pregnancy. Data from two randomised controlled clinical trials do not indicate any adverse reaction of insulin aspart on pregnancy or on the health of the fetus/newborn when compared to human insulin. **Breastfeeding:** There are no restrictions on treatment with Trurapi during breast-feeding, but the dose may need to be adjusted.

**Adverse Reactions:** Adverse reactions observed in patients using Trurapi are mainly due to the pharmacologic effect of insulin. Hypoglycaemia is the most frequent adverse reaction and may occur if the insulin dose is too high in relation to the insulin requirement. **Uncommon (≥1/1,000 to <1/100):** urticaria, rash, eruptions, refraction disorders, diabetic retinopathy, injection site reactions such as lipodystrophy and oedema that can be reduced by continuous rotation of the injection site. **Rare (≥1/10,000 to <1/1,000):** Peripheral neuropathy (painful neuropathy). Very rare (<1/10,000): anaphylactic reactions which can potentially be life threatening. **Frequency not known:** cutaneous amyloidosis. **Special populations:** The frequency, type and severity of adverse reactions observed in the paediatric population, elderly patients and patients with renal or hepatic impairment do not indicate any differences to the broader experience in the general population. *Prescribers should consult the SPC in relation to other adverse reactions.*

**Legal Category:** POM  
Marketing Authorisation (MA) Holder: Sanofi, 410 Thames Valley Park Drive, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 1PT, UK.

**GB List price and MA numbers:** *Trurapi 100 units/ml solution for injection in vial 1 x 10ml:* £11.97 – PLGB 04425/0891. *Trurapi 100 units/ml solution for injection in cartridge 5 x 3ml:* £19.82 – PLGB 04425/0885. *Trurapi 100 units/ml solution for injection in pre-filled pen 5 x 3ml:* £21.42 – PLGB 04425/0886.

**Further information is available from:** Medical Information, Sanofi, 410 Thames Valley Park Drive, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 1PT, UK. ukmedicalinformation@sanofi.com. SmPC Date: 29/03/2023

**Date of preparation:** April 2023. **Document Number:** MAT-XU-2301609 (v1.0)

Adverse events should be reported.  
Reporting forms and information can be found at [www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard) or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store.

Adverse events should also be reported to  
Sanofi Tel: 0800 090 2314. Alternatively,  
send via email to [UK-drugsafety@sanofi.com](mailto:UK-drugsafety@sanofi.com)