

Why carry out this study?

- There is a lack of research looking at the impact of insulin delivery systems, specifically insulin pens versus vial and syringe administration, on treatment adherence in elderly patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM), despite being one of the fastest growing segments of US society and one with a high burden of T2DM.
- Using claims data, this study compared adherence (percentage of days covered and medication possession ratio) and persistence in a predominantly elderly insurance population who were insulin-naïve and started a basal insulin regimen using a disposable pen or vial and syringe administration.

What was learned from the study?

- Significantly ($P < 0.001$) higher rates of adherence and persistence were found among patients using basal insulin pen delivery compared with those using vial and syringe during a 12-month period.
- Both pens and vials were broadly prescribed in this mostly elderly population with T2DM, although there may be practical and clinical advantages associated with pen use in this population.

This summary slide represents the opinions of the authors. Sponsorship for this study was funded by Novo Nordisk Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Editorial assistance for this study was provided Churchill Communications (Maplewood, NJ, USA). For a full list of acknowledgments and disclosures for all authors of this article, please see the full text online. © The Author(s) 2015. Creative Commons Attribution Noncommercial License (CC BY-NC).