

The History of Insulin: The World's First Life-Saving Drug for Diabetes



A Century of Innovation & Commitment

Modern insulins have improved substantially since 1923, when Lilly brought the first commercial animal-based insulin, Iletin, to market. But that insulin was created through processes most would view as crude today – extracting insulin from animal pancreases which inherently have purity and quality concerns. And until Lilly took on this challenge, no one had found a way to manufacture safe and effective insulin on a large scale.

Decades later, Lilly introduced the first recombinant DNA insulin and, eventually, the first human analog insulin, which starts working faster than regular human insulin. These improvements have been part of a dramatic innovation in the way diabetes is treated.

Lilly's commitment to the diabetes community remains unwavering, including helping those who need insulin therapy. We must continue to push and innovate until everyone is in control of their diabetes and anyone who needs life-saving insulin can get it.

To learn more, please visit:
[InsulinAffordability.com](https://www.lilly.com/insulinaffordability)



1921

The discovery of insulin

Dr. Frederick Banting and Charles Best, researchers at the University of Toronto, discover insulin for the treatment of humans



1923

Commercial launch of insulin

Lilly introduces Iletin (animal-source insulin), the world's first commercially available insulin product, for the treatment of diabetes

1989

Lilly receives approval for a fixed-ratio premix recombinant human insulin



1999

Lilly launches the first Lilly-designed, prefilled disposable insulin

2009

Lilly launches the first multiple-dose electronic memory insulin pen and a compact and disposable low injection force pre-filled insulin pen



2018

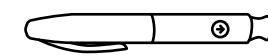
Lilly launches the Lilly Diabetes Solution Center, a first-of-its-kind call center dedicated to insulin affordability

2019

Lilly introduced its non-branded version of its most popular insulin at a list price 50% lower than its branded counterpart

2021

Lilly reduces the list price of Insulin Lispro Injection by 40%



Lilly committed all insulins to the Medicare Part D Senior Savings model allowing seniors enrolled in participating Part D plans to purchase their monthly prescription of Lilly insulin for \$35 during all phases of their Part D coverage

2023

Lilly makes it easier to access Lilly insulin

Lilly caps patient insulin out-of-pocket costs at \$35 per month* and cuts insulin prices by 70%



1922

Leonard Thompson becomes the first person to receive an insulin injection

Leonard, a 14-year-old boy with type 1 diabetes, lives for another 13 years. Previously patients with type 1 diabetes would only have months to live



1982

Lilly introduces human insulin derived from rDNA

1996

Lilly introduces the first rapid-acting insulin analog



2007

Lilly launches an insulin pen specifically designed for the needs of pediatric patients, allowing for half unit dosing

2016

Insulin glargine, the first insulin follow-on biologic, is made available to people with diabetes

2020

Lilly introduces ultra rapid insulin lispro



Lilly launches the Lilly Insulin Value Program, allowing anyone with commercial insurance, and those without insurance, to access their monthly prescription of Lilly insulin for \$35*

2022

Lilly receives an interchangeability designation for its lower cost insulin glargine biosimilar



Lilly further lowered list price of the non-branded version of its most popular insulin by an additional 40 percent, making it 70 percent lower than its branded counterpart and effectively bringing the list price down to 2008 levels

FUTURE OF INSULIN

Lilly stands firm in its commitment to innovation to help improve outcomes for patients with diabetes

The work to find new and better insulins is far from over. Advancing insulin therapy is a key part of our mission to help people with diabetes better manage this complex disease