

HUMULIN R U-500, MADE SIMPLE

Five-times concentrated human insulin for patients with very high insulin requirements

Five-times concentrated U-500 contains 500 units per mL. A dosing error can cause life-threatening hypoglycemia.	Use the matching device KwikPen users dial actual units. Vial users must use a U-500 insulin syringe.	No conversions Do not convert units to mL or U-100 syringe markings.
Usually before meals It is commonly injected two or three times daily about 30 minutes before meals, exactly as prescribed.	Never withdraw from the pen Do not use a syringe to remove insulin from the KwikPen.	Different discard dates Opened vial: 40 days. Opened KwikPen: 28 days and do not refrigerate.

MOST IMPORTANT	Humulin R U-500 is five times as concentrated as U-100 insulin. Use only the U-500 KwikPen or a U-500 insulin syringe with the vial. Never use a U-100 syringe, never convert units, and always verify the label before every dose.
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Why U-500 is different It can provide both meal and background coverage in some treatment plans. It is not simply a stronger version to substitute for another insulin dose.	KwikPen safety Dial the prescribed number of units directly. Do not transfer to a syringe. Use a new needle, prime, and remove the needle after each injection.
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Vial safety Use only a U-500 insulin syringe. Draw the prescribed units without conversion. Keep U-100 syringes away from the U-500 vial to prevent mix-ups.	Missed dose Do not guess or double. Check glucose and contact the diabetes team because U-500 has a prolonged action and the response depends on meal timing and the dosing schedule.
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Monitoring Frequent glucose or CGM review is essential during initiation, dose changes, illness, eating changes, or transitions to or from another insulin.	Storage Opened U-500 vial: refrigerated or room temperature and discard after 40 days. Opened KwikPen: room temperature only and discard after 28 days. Never freeze; protect from heat and light.
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EMERGENCY WARNING	Call 911 for unconsciousness, seizure, severe confusion, inability to swallow, or a severe allergic reaction. Use prescribed glucagon for severe low blood sugar when available. Call emergency services immediately for a suspected U-500 overdose.
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Fairview Pharmacy | 500 Katie Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401 | 601-544-4871

Clinically reviewed: July 2026. Based on Humulin R U-500 U.S. Prescribing Information and Instructions for Use. This guide provides general education and does not replace individualized instructions from your healthcare team.

MY HUMULIN R U-500 GUIDE

Simplified refrigerator guide - keep this with your insulin supplies

THE MAIN RULE

Humulin R U-500 is five times as concentrated as U-100 insulin. Use only the U-500 KwikPen or a U-500 insulin syringe with the vial. Never use a U-100 syringe, never convert units, and always verify the label before every dose.

My device - KwikPen or U-500 vial:	_____
My prescribed units per dose:	_____
My dose times and meals:	_____
My low-glucose plan:	_____
Date opened:	_____
Discard date - pen 28 days / vial 40 days:	_____

MISSED DOSE

Check glucose and call the diabetes team. Do not double, convert, or substitute another insulin. The correct plan depends on how late the dose is and whether you have eaten.

CALL TODAY

Any uncertainty about units or device; repeated lows; unexpected high glucose; vomiting or ketones; a pharmacy or hospital transition; or a change between pen and vial.

STORAGE AND HANDLING

Opened KwikPen: room temperature only, 28 days. Opened vial: refrigerator or room temperature, 40 days. Keep U-100 syringes away from the vial.

GET URGENT HELP

Call 911 for unconsciousness, seizure, severe confusion, inability to swallow, or a severe allergic reaction. Use prescribed glucagon for severe low blood sugar when available. Call emergency services immediately for a suspected U-500 overdose.

LOW BLOOD SUGAR - RULE OF 15

If glucose is below 70 mg/dL and you can swallow safely: take 15 grams of fast carbohydrate, wait 15 minutes, and recheck. Repeat if still low. For severe low blood sugar, inability to swallow, seizure, or unconsciousness: use glucagon if available and call 911.