

Insulin Profiles

Nursing

Onset, peak and duration by type, and why the peak is when hypos happen.

Approximate profiles. Products differ; always read the specific preparation.

Type	Onset	Peak
Rapid-acting analogue	10–20 min	1–3 h
Short-acting soluble	30–60 min	2–4 h
Intermediate isophane	1–2 h	4–12 h
Long-acting analogue	1–2 h	Little or no peak
Mixed preparations	Two components	Two peaks

Educational reference. Figures are approximate and product-specific.
Insulin is high-alert: never abbreviate units, always check.