

Classification of Insulin Based on Expected Onset, Peak, and Duration of Action

Classification	Drug	Onset	Peak	Duration
Rapid-acting	Lispro insulin (Humalog)	Less than 15 min	30 min to 1 hr	3 to 4 hr
Short-acting	Regular insulin (Humulin R)	30 min to 1 hr	2 to 3 hr	5 to 7 hr
Intermediate-acting	NPH insulin (Humulin N)	1 to 2 hr	4 to 12 hr	18 to 24 hr
Long-acting	Insulin glargine (Lantus)	1 hr	None – Levels are steady	24 hr