

Inhalers and Dispensing – A Review of Options

There has been a lot of movement on the Inhaler front with new products as well as some Branded Generics entering the market. Some products which were only available as MDI (Metered Dose Inhalers) or pMDIs (Pressurised Metered Dose Inhalers) are now available as Dry Powder Inhalers. Some inhalers contain propellants, known as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). HFCs do not have an effect on the ozone layer. However, they are powerful greenhouse gases and can contribute to global warming. Pressurised MDIs (pMDIs) and Breathe-Actuated MDIs (BAMDis) contain HFCs, but Dry Powder Inhalers (DPIs) and Breathe Activated Dry Powder Inhalers (BADPIs) do not. The Informatics section of the Dispex Website has an up-to-date list of all inhalers and categorises them according to whether they are Aerosol or Non-aerosol inhalers.

MDI	Metered Dose Inhaler	Aerosol
pMDI	Pressurised Metered Dose Inhaler	Aerosol
DPI	Dry Powder Inhaler	Non-Aerosol
BADPI	Breathe Actuated Dry Powder Inhaler	Non-Aerosol
BAMDI	Breathe Actuated Metered Dose Inhaler	Aerosol

The biggest issue facing dispensaries will be the impact of the updated Investment and Impact Fund (IIF) incentivising the move from Aerosol to Non-aerosol inhalers. There will be pressure from PCNs (Primary Care Networks) as well as CCGs to increase the percentage of non-Salbutamol inhalers that are prescribed as Non-aerosol inhalers. Many practices will just move patients to a suitable non-aerosol inhaler without looking at the financial consequences of these moves. Without careful consideration, many practices will see a drop in income if they merely make changes without looking at the dispensing options.

It goes without saying that the prescription for any particular inhaler must be the most clinically suitable product. In addition, the device used must be the most appropriate for that patient and the inhaler technique of all new devices needs to be checked by a clinician before deciding on changing the product or the device. This will most commonly be done by the Respiratory nurses and it is essential that the dispensers work as a team with the nurses. Most inhaler problems identified by the patients will first be notified to the dispensary.

There will be some easy changes which will increase the percentage of Non-aerosols.

Long Acting Anti-Muscarinics (LAMAs)

LAMA				
Non-Aerosol				
Acclidinium	Eklira Genuair	AZ	£32.50	BADPI
Glycopyrronium	Seebri Breezhaler	Novartis	£27.50	DPI
Tiotropium	Spiriva Handihaler	BI	£34.87	DPI
Tiotropium	Spiriva Handihaler Refill	BI	£33.50	DPI
Tiotropium	Braltus	TEVA	£25.80	DPI
Tiotropium	Tiogiva Device + Capsules	Glenmark	£19.99	DPI
Tiotropium	Tiogiva Capsules	Glenmark	£19.20	DPI
Aerosol				
Tiotropium	Spiriva Respimat Device	BI	£23.00	MDI
Tiotropium	Spiriva Respimat Refill	BI	£23.00	MDI

The Profitability Tools – Brand Comparisons section of the Dispex website details the difference in profitability for all of these products. **Combination Long-Acting Anti Muscarinics (LAMA) + Long-Acting Beta Agonists (LABA)**

LABA + LAMA				
Non-aerosol				
Formoterol + Acclidinium	Duaklir Genuair	AZ	£32.50	BADPI
Indacaterol + Glycopyrronium	Ultibro Breezhaler	Novartis	£32.50	DPI
Vilanterol + Umeclidinium	Anoro Ellipta	GSK	£32.50	BADPI
Aerosol				
Formoterol+ Glycopyrronium	Bevespi Aerosphere	AZ	£32.50	MDI
Tiotropium + Olodaterol	Spiolto Respimat Device	BI	£32.50	MDI
Tiotropium + Olodaterol	Spiolto Respimat Refill	BI	£32.50	MDI

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Combination LAMA + LABA + Inhaled Corticosteroid (ICS)

LABA + ICS + LAMA				
Non-Aerosol				
Formoterol + Beclometasone + Glycopyrronium	Trimbow NextHaler	Chiesi	£44.50	BADPI
Fluticasone + Umeclidinium + Vilanterol	Trelegy Ellipta	GSK	£44.50	BADPI
Indacaterol + Glycopyrronium + Mometasone	Energair Breezhaler	Novartis	£44.50	DPI
Aerosol				
Formoterol + Beclometasone + Glycopyrronium	Trimbow	Chiesi	£44.50	MDI
Formoterol + Budesonide + Glycopyrronium	Trixeo Aerosphere	AZ	£44.50	MDI

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Combination LABA + ICS are slightly more complex

You need to take into account:

- * Combination – there are 6 possibilities and patients will need monitoring when changing from one combination to another to ensure efficacy
- * Strength - there are different strengths and not all brands are available in all strengths. The strengths of the newer inhalers are measured differently from the older inhalers, but are equivalent eg Fobumix 160/45 is equivalent to Symbicort 200/6
- * Device – Ease of use is important, as well as whether the device is Aerosol or non-aerosol. Not all patients will be able to use all devices and it may be that an MDI with a suitable spacer is the best option
- * Price – some of the lower strengths might look inexpensive, but when patients are titrated to higher strengths the price goes up considerably.

We have divided then according to their ingredients and strengths. If you are titrating up or down, then it may be better to select a brand that has several strengths.

BADPI = Non-Aerosol

MDI = Aerosol

Fluticasone + Salmeterol					
Airflusal ForSpiro	50/500	Sandoz	60	£29.97	BADPI
Airflusal	125	Sandoz	120	£16.42	MDI
Airflusal	250	Sandoz	120	£20.52	MDI
Combisal	50	Aspire	120	£13.50	MDI
Combisal	125	Aspire	120	£17.59	MDI
Combisal	250	Aspire	120	£27.99	MDI
Fixkoh Airmaster	50/100	T & R	60	£14.47	BADPI
Fixkoh Airmaster	50/250	T & R	60	£19.29	BADPI
Fixkoh Airmaster	50/500	T & R	60	£24.12	BADPI
Fusacomb Easyhaler	50/250	Orion	60	£26.99	BADPI
Fusacomb Easyhaler	50/500	Orion	120	£21.50	BADPI
Sereflo	125	Cipla/Kent	120	£14.99	MDI
Sereflo	250	Cipla/Kent	120	£19.99	MDI
Seretide Accuhaler	100	GSK	60	£18.00	BADPI
Seretide Accuhaler	250	GSK	60	£33.95	BADPI
Seretide Accuhaler	500	GSK	60	£32.74	BADPI
Seretide evohaler	50	GSK	120	£17.46	MDI
Seretide evohaler	125	GSK	120	£23.45	MDI
Seretide evohaler	250	GSK	60	£29.32	MDI
Sirdupla	125	Mylan	120	£22.45	MDI
Sirdupla	250	Mylan	60	£28.32	MDI
Stalpex	50/500	Glenmark	60	£16.37	BADPI

Formoterol + Budesonide					
DuoResp Spiromax	320/9	TEVA	60	£27.97	BADPI
DuoResp Spiromax	160/4.5	TEVA	120	£27.97	BADPI
Fobumix Easyhaler	80/4.5	Orion	120	£21.50	BADPI
Fobumix Easyhaler	160/4.5	Orion	120	£21.50	BADPI
Fobumix Easyhaler	320/9	Orion	60	£21.50	BADPI
Symbicort Turbohaler	100/6	AZ	120	£28.00	BADPI
Symbicort Turbohaler	200/6	AZ	120	£28.00	BADPI
Symbicort Turbohaler	400/12	AZ	60	£28.00	BADPI
Symbicort	100/3	AZ	120	£14.00	MDI
Symbicort	200/6	AZ	120	£28.00	MDI
Formoterol + Beclometasone					
Fostair Nexthaler	100	Chiesi	120	£29.32	BADPI
Fostair Nexthaler	200	Chiesi	120	£29.32	BADPI
Fostair	100	Chiesi	120	£29.32	MDI
Fostair	200	Chiesi	120	£29.32	MDI
Luforbec	100	Lupin	120	£20.52	MDI
Indacaterol + Mometasone					
Aectura Breezhaler	125/62.5	Sandoz	30	£17.49	BADPI
Aectura Breezhaler	125/127.5	Sandoz	30	£21.50	BADPI
Aectura Breezhaler	125/260	Sandoz	30	£27.97	BADPI
Vilanterol + Fluticasone					
Relvar Ellipta	22/92	GSK	30	£22.00	BADPI
Relvar Ellipta	22/184	GSK	30	£29.50	BADPI
Formoterol + Fluticasone					
Flutiform	50	NAPP	120	£14.40	MDI
Flutiform	125	NAPP	120	£28.00	MDI
Flutiform	250	NAPP	120	£45.56	MDI

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