By Dr Philip Koopowitz

GREENER INHALED CORTICOSTEROIDS

Some corticosteroid 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 Corticosteroid 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 Inhale	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 Corticosteroid inhalers that are prescribed as Non-aerosol inhalers.

Many practices will just move patients to a suitable non-aerosol Corticosteroid inhaler without looking at the financial consequences of these moves. There are not many Corticosteroid Non-aerosol inhalers available and some are only available in one strength. 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.

Below is the list of ICS (Inhaled Corticosteroids) together with whether they are Aerosol or Non-Aerosol inhalers. The Profitability section of the Dispex Website has an up-to-date list of inhalers, their profitability and categorises them according to whether they are Aerosol or Non-aerosol inhalers.

Brand	Strength	Manufacturer	Doses	Basic Price	Aerosol vs Non-Aerosol
Beclometasone					
Clenil	50	Chiesi	200	£3.70	MDI
Clenil	100	Chiesi	200	£7.42	MDI
Clenil	200	Chiesi	200	£16.17	MDI
Clenil	250	Chiesi	200	£16.29	MDI
Easyhaler Beclometasone	200	Orion	200	£14.93	BADPI
Kelhale*	50	Cipla	200	£5.20	MDI
Kelhale*	100	Cipla	200	£5.20	MDI
Qvar Autohaler*	50	Teva	200	£7.87	BAMDI
Qvar Autohaler*	100	Teva	200	£17.21	BAMDI
Qvar - Easi-Breathe*	50	Teva	200	£7.74	BAMDI
Qvar - Easi-Breathe*	100	Teva	200	£16.95	BAMDI
Qvar*	50	Teva	200	£7.87	MDI
Qvar*	100	Teva	200	£17.21	MDI
Soprobec	50	Glenmark	200	£2.78	MDI
Soprobec	100	Glenmark	200	£5.57	MDI
Soprobec	200	Glenmark	200	£12.13	MDI
Soprobec	250	Glenmark	200	£12.22	MDI
Budesonide					
Budelin Novolizer	200	Mylan	100	£14.86	BADPI
Budelin Novolizer Refill	200	Mylan	100	£9.59	BADPI
Easyhaler Budesonide	100	Orion	200	£8.86	BADPI
Easyhaler Budesonide	200	Orion	200	£17.71	BADPI
Easyhaler Budesonide	400	Orion	200	£17.71	BADPI
Pulmicort Turbohaler	100	AZ	200	£14.25	BADPI
Pulmicort Turbohaler	200	AZ	200	£14.25	BADPI
Pulmicort Turbohaler	400	AZ	200	£14.25	BADPI
Ciclesonide					
Alvesco	80	Covis	120	£32.83	MDI
Alvesco	160	Covis	60	£19.31	MDI
Alvesco	160	Covis	120	£38.62	MDI
Fluticasone					
Flixotide Accuhaler	50	GSK	60	£4.00	BADPI
Flixotide Accuhaler	100	GSK	60	£8.00	BADPI
Flixotide Accuhaler	250	GSK	60	£25.51	BADPI
Flixotide Accuhaler	500	GSK	60	£43.37	BADPI
Flixotide Evohaler	50	GSK	120	£6.53	MDI
Flixotide Evohaler	125	GSK	120	£21.26	MDI
Flixotide Evohaler	250	GSK	120	£36.14	MDI
Mometasone					
Asmanex Twisthaler	200	Organon	30	£15.70	BADPI
Asmanex Twisthaler	200	Organon	60	£23.54	BADPI
Asmanex Twisthaler	400	Organon	30	£21.78	BADPI
Asmanex Twisthaler	400	Organon	60	£36.05	BADPI