



Dispensing and the drive for environmental sustainability

We continue our journey to transform Respiratory care to the lowest possible carbon impact by looking at Combination LABA plus ICS inhalers this month. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) inhaler propellants contained in pMDIs (pressurised Metered Dose Inhaler) were recognised as ozone depleting substances and were phased out in the UK by 1996. CFCs were replaced by 'CFC-free' inhalers containing hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Although HFCs are not ozone depleting substances, they are powerful greenhouse gases which can contribute to global warming. Carbon emissions from inhalers have been assessed as being responsible for approximately 3% of all NHS carbon emissions. The NICE patient decision aid gives an indicative range for DPI (Dry Powder Inhalers) and pMDIs:

- **DPIs (1 dose (two puffs)): 20 g CO2e per dose**
- **pMDIs (two puffs): 500 g CO2e per dose**

This is, unfortunately, not the full story, as some pMDIs have a higher indicative carbon footprint when compared with other pMDIs.

Even though the Environmental Sustainability indicators have been removed from the Investment and Impact Fund (IIF) 2023/24 Incentive scheme, there is still a great need to reduce the carbon footprint of inhalers. Most LABA Plus ICS products are available as both MDIs and DPIs.

Dispex has assessed the impact on profitability of all these inhalers and this information can be accessed via the

Brand Comparisons section of the Dispex website which is a Members' only resource. The profitability comparisons include figures on the website showing the profitability of prescribing generically and dispensing a particular brand, which can make a significant difference between dispensing at a loss and ensuring your dispensary viability.

The following 6 combinations are available:

Beclometasone + Formoterol
Budesonide + Formoterol
Fluticasone + Formoterol
Fluticasone + Salmeterol
Fluticasone + Vilanterol
Mometasone + Indacaterol

We will take an in-depth view of Fluticasone + Salmeterol as there are now 12 manufacturers. Not all manufacturers supply all strengths as MDIs or as DPIs. Switching MDIs to cheaper products should be relatively easy, but switching DPIs requires a check on inhaler technique. It can become quite confusing for patients and dispensers may have to assist in the changeover and get to know the different inhaler names eg Accuhaler, Airmaster, Ciphaler, Easyhaler and Spiromax – and this is just for the Fluticasone plus Salmeterol!

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Brand	Strength	Manufacturer	Doses	Basic Price	Aerosol vs Non-Aerosol
Avenor	25/50	Zentiva	120	£12.99	MDI
Combisal	25/50	Aspire	120	£13.50	MDI
Seretide evohaler	25/50	GSK	120	£29.32	MDI
Airflusal	125/25	Sandoz	120	£16.42	MDI
Aloflute	125/25	Mylan	120	£23.45	MDI
Avenor	125/25	Zentiva	120	£10.33	MDI
Combisal	125/25	Aspire	120	£10.48	MDI
Sereflo	125/25	Cipla	120	£14.99	MDI
Seretide evohaler	125/25	GSK	120	£23.45	MDI
Sirdupla	125/25	Viatrix	120	£22.45	MDI
Airflusal	250	Sandoz	120	£20.52	MDI
Aloflute	250	Mylan	120	£28.32	MDI
Avenor	250	Zentiva	120	£13.66	MDI
Combisal	250	Aspire	120	£13.99	MDI
Sereflo	250	Cipla/Kent	120	£19.99	MDI
Seretide evohaler	250	GSK	120	£29.32	MDI
Sirdupla	250	Viatrix	120	£28.32	MDI

Campona Airmaster	50/100	Genesis	60	£7.95	BADPI
Fixkoh Airmaster	50/100	Genus	60	£14.47	BADPI
Seretide Accuhaler	100	GSK	60	£17.46	BADPI

Campona Airmaster	50/250	Genesis	60	£8.95	BADPI
Fixkoh Airmaster	50/250	Genus	60	£19.29	BADPI
Fusacomb Easyhaler	50/250	Orion	60	£21.50	BADPI
Sereflo Ciphaler	250	Cipla	60	£10.99	BADPI
Seretide Accuhaler	250	GSK	60	£33.95	BADPI

Airflusal ForSpiro	50/500	Sandoz	60	£29.97	BADPI
Campona Airmaster	50/500	Genesis	60	£9.95	BADPI
Fixkoh Airmaster	50/500	T & R	60	£16.12	BADPI
Fusacomb Easyhaler	50/500	Orion	60	£26.99	BADPI
Sereflo Ciphaler	50/500	Cipla	60	£10.99	BADPI
Seretide Accuhaler	500	GSK	60	£32.74	BADPI
Stalpex	50/500	Glenmark	60	£16.12	BADPI

Seffalair Spiromax	12.75/202	TEVA	60	£23.97	BADPI
Seffalair Spiromax	12.75/100	TEVA	60	£23.97	BADPI

Over the next few editions of the Gazette, Dispex will be looking at the other LABA plus ICS Combination Inhalers. We will be assessing the potential impact some of these might have on dispensary viability, alongside the importance of the drive to ensure environmental sustainability. We will be offering choices for dispensing practices and member practices can access the profitability impact of those choices.