



Dispensing and the drive for environmental sustainability

Assessment of Combination Long Acting Beta Agonists (LABAs) and Inhaled Corticosteroids (ICS) Part 2

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 Budesonide + Formoterol as there are now 4 manufacturers with only one supplying MDIs. Not all manufacturers supply all strengths of 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 Turbohaler,

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Easyhaler and Spiromax. Trying to work out profitability on AstraZeneca’s Symbicort is difficult because you will get 1 basic discount on the first 67 packs in a quarter and then an enhanced discount on all packs after that within the quarter. To see the profitability of these products members can view the data within our Brand Comparisons section – **Inhalers – Combinations Budesonide + Formoterol**

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.

Brand	Strength	Manufacturer	Doses	Basic Price	Aerosol vs Non-Aerosol
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
GoResp Digihaler	320/9	TEVA	90	£75.63	BADPI
GoResp Digihaler	160/4.5	TEVA	180	£27.97	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
WockAir	160/4.5	Wockhardt	120	£19.00	BADPI
Wockair	320/9	Wockhardt	60	£19.00	BADPI

Additional Brand Comparisons Updates- Members can also **login** to view the following pages: Hormonal Contraception POPs, NOACs and the new Inhalers combinations.

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