

Guide for Alternative Inhalers During Stock Shortages Related to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

- Please **do not** increase numbers of inhalers prescribed on regular repeat or acute prescriptions.
- Prescribe enough respiratory medicines to meet the patient's clinical needs for no more than 30 days treatment where possible* If this is implemented, it will help to support the supply chain and reduce shortages.
- Ensure prescriptions are not issued significantly earlier than they should be.
- Prescribing larger quantities of inhaler medicines is putting the supply chain at risk.

*How long should an inhaler last?

Issue duration for prescription of inhalers will be calculated for you when you prescribe the medicine based on the number of doses in the inhaler and the dose patient uses. Use this to guide you

Ensure the duration of each prescription is set up correctly. This helps achieving appropriate ordering intervals.

On EMIS:

Name: Clenil Modulite 100micrograms/dose inhaler (Chiesi Ltd)
Dosage: 1 PUFF TWICE A DAY
Quantity: 1 inhaler x 200 dose
Duration: 100 Day(s)
Rx Types: Repeat
Authorised Issues: []

Pack Details
Optional Prescription Information
Pharmacy Info: []
Patient Info: []

Correct Duration

On SystmONE:

Drug prescribed: Soprobeq 100micrograms/dose inhaler (Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Europe Ltd)
Script type: NHS Issue Private Issue Instalment Dispensed Issue
Dose: inhale 2 doses twice daily
Total quantity: Number: 1 inhaler = 200 dose
 Packs
 Free Text
Script notes: [] Presets: []
Administrative notes: [] Presets: []
Issue duration: 50 Days

Correct Duration

Current Supply Issues in Community Pharmacies (as at 2nd April 2020) – working/live document

Product	Stock levels as at 2 nd April 2020 (AAH & Alliance)
Clenil Modulite pMDI (50,100,200, 250 strengths)	50 & 100- Out of stock ; 200 & 250- Limited stock
Soprobeq pMDI inhaler (50,100,200,250 strengths)	Only 250 strength in stock; Other strengths- Out of stock
Kelhale pMDI (50,100 strengths)	Out of stock
Flixotide Evohaler & Accuhaler	In stock- all strengths
Beclometasone Easyhaler	200mcg strength in stock
Budesonide Easyhaler (100, 200, 400 strengths)	In stock- all strengths
Pulmicort Turbohaler (100, 200, 400 strengths)	200 & 400- In stock; 100- Limited stock
Qvar (Autohaler & Easi-Breathe)	In stock- all strengths of both devices
Qvar pMDI (50, 100 strengths)	Out of stock
Fostair pMDI and DPI (100/6,200/6 strengths)	Limited stock - all strengths
Fobumix Easyhaler (80/4.5, 160/4.5, 320/9 strengths)	In stock- all strengths
DuoResp Spiromax (160/4.5, 320/9 strengths)	In stock- all strengths
Symbicort (100/6, 200/6, 400/12 strengths)	Limited stock
Sereflo (25/125, 25/250 strengths)	In stock- all strengths
AirFluSal (25/125, 25/250 strengths)	In stock- all strengths
Combisal (25/50, 25/125, 25/250 strengths)	In stock- all strengths
Sirdupla (25/125, 25/250 strengths)	Limited stock - all strengths
Seretide Evohaler (25/50, 25/125, 25/250 strengths)	25/125- Out of stock ; 25/50 & 25/250- Limited stock
Seretide Accuhaler (100, 250, 500 strengths)	In stock- all strengths
AirFluSal Forspiro (50/500 strength)	In stock
Stalpex (50/500 strength)	In stock
Fusacomb Easyhaler (50/250, 50/500 strength)	In stock

Suggested Alternatives- using clinical judgment and the patient's ability to learn a new inhaler technique from access to Rightbreathe or my mhealth app (myCOPD) for support

If an inhaler is out of stock, **consider** the following two options:

1) **First option:** An equivalent inhaler (same drug & dose), ideally with same inhaler device – see table on next page.

2) **Second option:** If same inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) is not available, consider a similar strength ICS based on the NICE tables of ICS doses and/or Staffordshire Asthma guidelines (low, moderate and high ICS doses – these are not strict dose equivalences but are a guide to similar clinical effectiveness):

Originator brand	Equivalent Inhaler
ICS Inhalers	
Clenil Modulite 50, 100, 200 and 250 strengths (pMDI) First option alternatives are Soprobec, Qvar & Kelhale	Soprobec 50, 100, 200 and 250 strengths (pMDI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same potency as Clenil • Compatible with Volumatic
Qvar (pMDI) 50 and 100 strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twice as potent as Clenil- 50mcg of Qvar = 100mcg of Clenil • Licensed for asthma in children ≥ 5 years old • Not compatible with Volumatic 	Kelhale 50 and 100 strengths (pMDI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twice as potent as Clenil- 50mcg of Kelhale = 100mcg of Clenil • Licensed for asthma in children ≥ 18 years old • Not compatible with Volumatic
If none of the above pMDIs available consider:	
Beclometasone Easyhaler 200microg (DPI)(standard particle) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry powder inhaler for asthma only licensed in adult 	
Budesonide Easyhaler 100, 200, 400 microg (Breath-actuated DPI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require patient counselling to use DPI device. • Dose approximately equivalent to Clenil, switch dose at 1:1 • Licensed in asthma adult and children >6 years old 	
Flixotide- Fluticasone (pMDI) or (DPI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require dose change- Flixotide is Twice as potent as Clenil • Licensed in children >4 years 	
Flixotide Evohaler & Accuhaler	None- consider a similar strength ICS based on the NICE tables of ICS doses and/or Staffordshire Asthma guidelines
ICS + long-acting beta agonist (LABA) Combination Inhalers <i>Consider product licence differences for children</i>	
Originator brand	Equivalent Inhaler
Fostair 100/6 & 200/6 pMDI and DPI (the DPI inhaler is called Fostair NEXThaler)	None - the same inhaler in both strengths is available in pMDI and DPI devices
Symbicort 100/6 Turbohaler	Fobumix Easyhaler 80micrograms/dose / 4.5micrograms/dose dry powder inhaler
Symbicort 200/6 Turbohaler	DuoResp Spiromax 160micrograms/dose / 4.5micrograms/dose dry powder inhaler
	Fobumix Easyhaler 160micrograms/dose / 4.5micrograms/dose dry powder inhaler
	These equivalents are the same drug & dose BUT come in a different device
Symbicort 400/12 Turbohaler	DuoResp Spiromax 320micrograms/dose / 9micrograms/dose dry powder inhaler
	Fobumix Easyhaler 320micrograms/dose / 9micrograms/dose dry powder inhaler
	These equivalents are the same drug & dose BUT come in a different device
Seretide 125 Evohaler	Sereflo 25micrograms/dose / 125micrograms/dose inhaler
	AirFluSal 25micrograms/dose / 125micrograms/dose inhaler
	Combisal 25micrograms/dose / 125micrograms/dose inhaler
	Sirdupla 25micrograms/dose / 125micrograms/dose inhaler
Seretide 250 Evohaler	Sereflo 25micrograms/dose / 250micrograms/dose inhaler
	AirFluSal 25micrograms/dose / 250micrograms/dose inhaler
	Combisal 25micrograms/dose / 250micrograms/dose inhaler
	Sirdupla 25micrograms/dose / 250micrograms/dose inhaler
	These equivalents are the same drug, dose AND device (all pMDI)

Seretide 100 Accuhaler	None
Seretide 250 Accuhaler	Fusacomb Easyhaler 50micrograms/dose / 250micrograms/dose dry powder inhaler Fusacomb Easyhaler contains the same drug & dose BUT it is a different device to Accuhaler
Seretide 500 Accuhaler	Stalpex 50micrograms/dose / 500micrograms/dose dry powder inhaler AirFluSal Forspiro 50micrograms/dose / 500micrograms/dose dry powder inhaler Fusacomb Easyhaler 50micrograms/dose / 500micrograms/dose dry powder inhaler These equivalents are the same drug & dose BUT come in a different device to Accuhaler - Stalpex device is very similar to Accuhaler
ICS/ LABA Inhalers with licensed doses for children (specific inhaler strengths): Symbicort ≥ 6 years Combisal ≥ 4 years Stalpex ≥ 12 years Flutiform pMDI ≥ 5 years Fusacomb ≥ 12 years Seretide PMDI & DPI ≥ 4years	
Ref: Rightbreathe	

Useful Information

Local Asthma Guidelines can be found here:

<http://www.northstaffordshirejointformulary.nhs.uk/docs/gcp/Staffordshire%20and%20Stoke-on-Trent%20CCGs%20Asthma%20Guidelines%202019%20V2.pdf?uid=258332121&uid2=202045154733117>

NICE ICS Equivalence information can be found here:

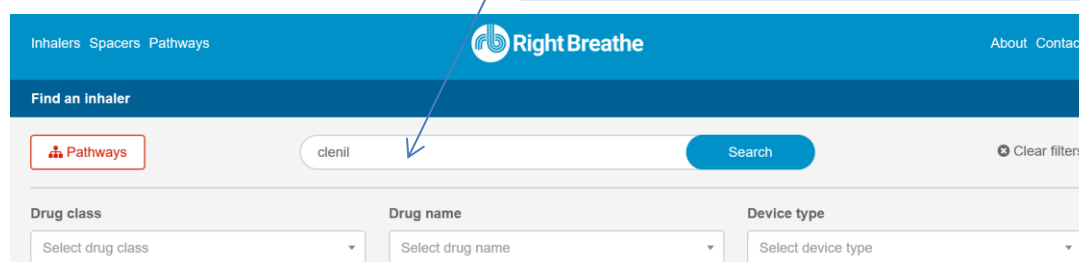
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng80/resources/inhaled-corticosteroid-doses-pdf-4731528781>

Support with using the devices- direct your patient to:

<https://www.rightbreathe.com/?s=>

The patient enters the name of their inhaler and a video will pop up showing them how to use the device correctly.

Type name of inhaler here & then click on inhaler picture





My mhealth app if they have been registered to use the myCOPD section. There is an inhaler section on their dashboard.

NICE patient decision aid for switches:

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng80/resources/inhalers-for-asthma-patient-decision-aid-pdf-6727144573>

SUMMARY POINTS TO NOTE:

- There can be variation in the licensing of different medicines containing the same drug. Clinicians must check the BNF (or BNFc) and/or manufacturer's summary of product characteristics (SPC) for licensed indication of the inhalers prior to prescribing, especially if switching formulations, prescribing in Asthma or COPD indications, and in paediatric patients.
- For patients who have not ordered their inhalers within the past three months, it is important that a brief consultation (telephone, electronically etc.) is undertaken to determine the clinical need prior to prescribing.
- Clinicians **must not** prescribe more than is necessary to mitigate the current pressures within the supply chain i.e. a month's supply to avoid stock-piling.
- Please note that supply levels are changing on a day-by-day basis, and clinicians may need to contact local pharmacies to check what current stock they hold prior to prescribing new products for patients.

For further support and prescribing guidance, please contact the CCGs Medicines Optimisation team via email: nstccg.staffsmedicineoptimisationqueries@nhs.net