

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 and ensure prescriptions are not issued significantly earlier than they should be. Where possible only issue 1-month supply.

Issue duration for prescription of inhalers should be calculated according to number of doses in the inhaler and the dose patient uses and entered on to the clinical system as appropriate (see 2nd page for details).

If this is implemented, it will help to support the supply chain and reduce shortages.

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 below

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 NW London Inhaler guides (low, moderate and high ICS doses – these are not strict dose equivalences but are a guide to similar clinical effectiveness):

- <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng80/resources/inhaled-corticosteroid-doses-pdf-4731528781>
- <https://www.hounslowccg.nhs.uk/news,-publications-and-policies/publications.aspx?n=5272>

Originator brand	Equivalent Inhaler
ICS Inhalers	
Clenil Modulite 50, 100, 200 and 250 strengths (pMDI)	Soprobec 50, 100, 200 and 250 strengths (pMDI)
Qvar pMDI 50 and 100 strengths	Kelhale 50 and 100 strengths (pMDI)
Flixotide Evohaler & Accuhaler	None
If none of the above is available, consider a similar ICS dose of following inhalers 1) Easyhaler Beclometasone 2) Qvar Easi-Breathe 3) Qvar Autohaler 4) Easyhaler Budesonide 5) Pulmicort Turbohaler	
ICS + long-acting beta agonist (LABA) Combination Inhalers	
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

Use RightBreathe website "www.rightbreathe.com" or application (available for iOS and Android) for information on inhalers, videos for inhaler technique and use of spacers.

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

Setting up issue durations on EMIS Web

This screenshot shows the EMIS Web prescription form for 'Clenil Modulite 100micrograms/dose inhaler (Chiesi Ltd)'. The dosage is '1 PUFF TWICE A DAY', quantity is '1 inhaler x 200 dose', and Rx Types is 'Repeat'. The 'Duration' field is empty, and a red arrow points to it with the label 'Missing Duration'.

Missing Duration

This screenshot shows the EMIS Web prescription form with the 'Duration' field set to '28 Day(s)'. A red arrow points to it with the label 'Wrong Duration'.

Wrong Duration

This screenshot shows the EMIS Web prescription form with the 'Duration' field set to '100 Day(s)'. A red arrow points to it with the label 'Correct Duration'.

Correct Duration

Setting up issue durations on SystmONE

This screenshot shows the SystmONE prescription form for 'Soprobe 100micrograms/dose inhaler (Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Europe Ltd)'. The dose is 'inhale 2 doses twice daily', total quantity is '1 inhaler = 200 dose', and issue duration is empty. A red arrow points to the 'Issue duration' field with the label 'Missing Duration'.

Missing Duration

This screenshot shows the SystmONE prescription form with the 'Issue duration' field set to '28 Days'. A red arrow points to it with the label 'Wrong Duration'.

Wrong Duration

This screenshot shows the SystmONE prescription form with the 'Issue duration' field set to '50 Days'. A red arrow points to it with the label 'Correct Duration'.

Correct Duration