



# ICS inhalers for Asthma and COPD prescribing update



North of England Commissioning Support

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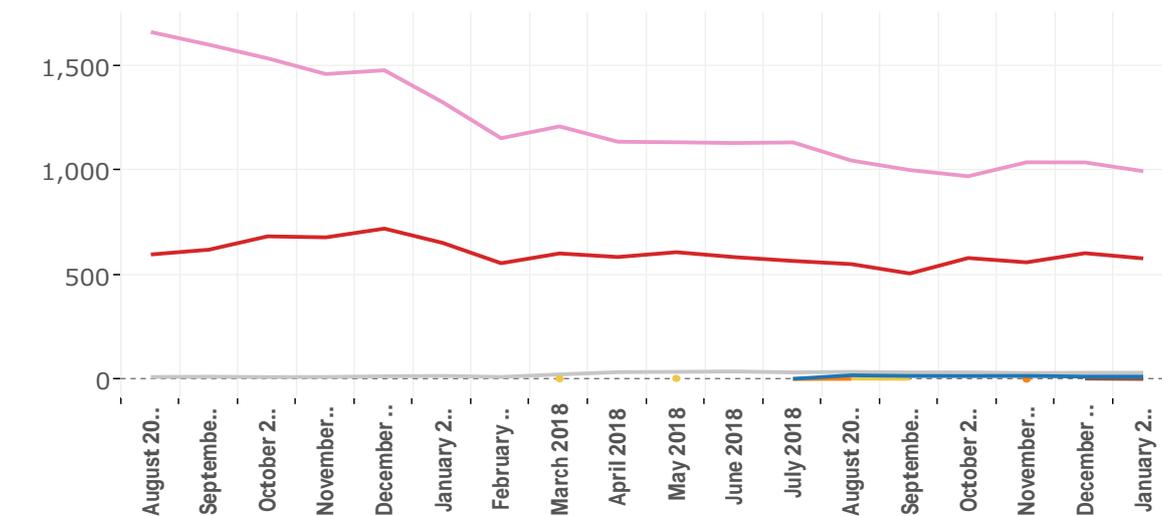
Date: June 2019

North of Tyne and North Cumbria currently have a branded prescribing guideline approved for use around the prescribing of certain groups of medications.

<https://medicines.necu.nhs.uk/download/north-of-tyne-and-north-cumbria-brand-name-prescribing-guidance/>

Where the prescribing of inhaled corticosteroid inhalers are concerned, there is currently no preferred option for practices when prescribing for patients however the guidance advises that they should be prescribed by brand.

It is preferable to prescribe a formulary inhaler for new patients, or for current patients where their asthma or COPD is not under control. The prescribing of salmeterol / fluticasone inhalers is currently rated BLACK on the North of Tyne formulary, however we are aware prescribing does occur for existing, stable patients. See data below for last 18 months product prescribing:



Products - includes 25/125mcg and 25/250mcg

- Seretide® Evohaler®
- Salmeterol/Fluticasone INN (MDI)
- Airflusal® MDI
- Aloflute®
- Combisal®
- Sereflo®
- Sirdupla®

To aid practices when prescribing these inhalers we currently have the NECS key messages document:

<https://medicines.necu.nhs.uk/download/patients-with-asthma-inhaled-corticosteroids-key-messages/>

Produced by: Phillip Utting      NECS Medicines Optimisation team for North Cumbria CCG  
Contact details: [phillip.utting@cumbria.necu.nhs.uk](mailto:phillip.utting@cumbria.necu.nhs.uk)

Have you seen the NECS Medicines Optimisation website?

<http://medicines.necu.nhs.uk/>



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We are aware that there are cost savings to be made, should a practice decide to prescribe by brand, this also aids patient compliance and product consistency for our patients. To aid your practice decision we have listed the most cost effective available branded inhalers below with their current list prices (May 2019).

## Current cost effective salmeterol / fluticasone inhalers available and list prices

Dose & pack size	Airflusal MDI list price	Sirdupla list price	Seretide Evohaler list price	Combisal list price	Sereflo list price (not compatible with Volumatic)	Current DT Price
25/50, 120 doses	N/A	N/A	£18.00	£13.50	N/A	£18.00
25/125, 120 doses	£16.42	£22.45	£23.45	£17.59	£14.99	£23.45
25/250, 120 doses	£20.52	£28.32	£29.32	£27.99	£19.99	£29.32

## Current cost effective beclomethasone cfc-free inhalers available and list prices

Dose & pack size	Clenil list price	Qvar list price	Kelhale list price	Current DT price
50, 200 doses	£3.70	£7.87	£5.20	£3.70
100, 200 120 doses	£7.42	£17.21	£5.20	£7.42

Beclomethasone inhalers are not always interchangeable, based on particle size. See potency information sheet for more information.

References:

<https://bnf.nice.org.uk/drug/fluticasone-with-salmeterol.html>

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