



Refills

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December 2020

Asthma Inhaled Medication Table Update

This is a 2020 Update to the BC Provincial Academic Detailing (PAD) Service's 2017 Table "Inhaled Medications for COPD & Asthma" which includes some additions to the inhaled medications list and Asthma BC PharmaCare coverage changes. For complete details on the PharmaCare coverage of asthma inhalers in British Columbia please see the [PharmaCare Special Authority website](#) (Special Authority criteria for LABA, LABA+ICS in asthma: inadequate response on optimal dose of ICS).

Asthma: Inhaled Medications Marketed in Canada ¹⁻²				
Medication	Brand Name, <i>Inhaler Device</i> Dose per Inhalation	Usual Adult Dose ^{1,3,4}	Cost 30 days	BC PharmaCare
ICS Inhaled Corticosteroid				
beclomethasone dipropionate	Qvar MDI (50 mcg)	Low: 50-100 mcg BID Mod: >100-200 mcg BID High: >200-400 mcg BID	\$39 /200 inh \$78 /200 inh	regular benefit
	Qvar MDI (100 mcg)			
budesonide	Pulmicort <i>Turbuhaler</i> (100 mcg)	Low: 100-200 mcg BID Mod: >200-400 mcg BID High: >400-1200 mcg BID 400 mcg can be dosed once daily; doses can be divided BID to QID	\$36 /200 inh \$73 /200 inh \$106 /200 inh	regular benefit
	Pulmicort <i>Turbuhaler</i> (200 mcg)			
	Pulmicort <i>Turbuhaler</i> (400 mcg)			
ciclesonide	Alvesco MDI (100 mcg)	Low: 100-200 mcg once daily Mod: >200-400 mcg once daily High: 400 mcg BID	\$51 /120 inh \$84 /120 inh	regular benefit
	Alvesco MDI (200 mcg)			
fluticasone furoate	Arnuity <i>Ellipta</i> (100 mcg)	Low/Mod: 100 mcg once daily High: 200 mcg once daily	\$43 /30 inh \$87 /30 inh	regular benefit
	Arnuity <i>Ellipta</i> (200 mcg)			
fluticasone propionate	Flovent HFA MDI (50 mcg)	Low: 50-125 mcg BID Mod: >125-250 mcg BID High: >250-1000 mcg BID	\$28 /120 inh \$49 /120 inh \$97 /120 inh	regular benefit
	Flovent HFA MDI (125 mcg)			
	Flovent HFA MDI (250 mcg)			
fluticasone propionate	Flovent <i>Diskus</i> (100 mcg)	Low: 55 mcg BID Mod: 113 mcg BID High: 232 mcg BID	\$28 /60 inh \$49 /60 inh \$76 /60 inh	regular benefit
	Flovent <i>Diskus</i> (250 mcg)			
	Flovent <i>Diskus</i> (500 mcg)			
mometasone furoate	Aermony <i>Resplick</i> (55 mcg)	Low: 55 mcg BID Mod: 113 mcg BID High: 232 mcg BID	\$18 /60 inh \$33 /60 inh \$52 /60 inh	non-benefit
	Aermony <i>Resplick</i> (113 mcg)			
	Aermony <i>Resplick</i> (232 mcg)			
mometasone furoate	Asmanex <i>Twisthaler</i> (100 mcg)	Low: 200 mcg once a day in evening Mod: 200 mcg BID or 400 mcg once a day in the evening High: 400 mcg BID	\$38 /30 inh \$38 /60 inh \$77 /60 inh	non benefit
	Asmanex <i>Twisthaler</i> (200 mcg)			
	Asmanex <i>Twisthaler</i> (400 mcg)			

MDI metered dose inhaler; mcg micrograms; BID twice a day; mod moderate; inh inhalations; QID four times a day; HFA hydrofluoroalkane; Cost without mark-up and professional fee; calculated from McKesson Canada <https://www.mckesson.ca/> (Accessed Nov 27, 2020)

¹ [Health Canada Drug Product Monographs](#)

² [BC PAD COPD Newsletter 2017](#)

³ [Global Initiative for Asthma \(GINA Guideline\) Asthma Management and Prevention Pocket Guide 2020 Update](#)

⁴ [BC Guidelines: Asthma in Adults-Recognition, Diagnosis and Management: Appendix C \(2015\)](#)

Asthma: Inhaled Medications Marketed in Canada ¹⁻²				
Medication	Brand Name, <i>Inhaler Device</i> Dose per Inhalation	Usual Adult Dose	Cost 30 days	BC PharmaCare
SABA Short Acting Beta₂ Agonist				
salbutamol	Ventolin HFA MDI, Airomir MDI, generics (100 mcg)	1-2 inh PRN (max 8 inh/day)	\$6 /200 inh	regular benefit
	Ventolin Diskus (200 mcg)	1 inh PRN (max 4 inh/day)	\$11 /60 inh	non-benefit
terbutaline	Bricanyl Turbuhaler (500 mcg)	1-2 inh PRN (max 6 inh/day)	\$9 /100 inh	regular benefit
LABA Long Acting Beta₂ Agonist (only use in combination with ICS; LABA alone is contraindicated in asthma)				
formoterol	Foradil Aerolizer (12 mcg)	1-2 inh BID (max 48 mcg/day)	\$58 /60 inh	
	Oxeze Turbuhaler (6 mcg) Oxeze Turbuhaler (12 mcg)	1 inh BID (max 48 mcg/day)	\$36 /60 inh \$48 /60 inh	limited coverage
salmeterol	Serevent Diskus (50 mcg)	1 inh BID	\$67 /60 inh	limited coverage
ICS+LABA Inhaled Corticosteroid + Long Acting Beta₂ Agonist				
budesonide + formoterol	Symbicort Turbuhaler (100/6 mcg) Symbicort Turbuhaler (200/6 mcg)	SMT: 1-2 inh once a day or BID SMART: 1-2 inh BID or 2 inh once a day plus 1 inh PRN (max 8 inh/day) 1 inh PRN for mild persistent asthma ^{200/6mcg}	\$73 /120 inh \$95 /120 inh	limited coverage
fluticasone furoate + vilanterol	Breo Ellipta (100/25 mcg) Breo Ellipta (200/25 mcg)	1 inh once a day	\$94 /30 inh \$147 /30inh	limited coverage
fluticasone propionate + salmeterol	Advair MDI (125/25 mcg) Advair MDI (250/25 mcg)	2 inh BID	\$113 /120 inh \$161 /120 inh	limited coverage
	Advair Diskus (100/50 mcg) generics now available DPI, Inhub	1 inh BID	\$95 /60 inh \$46 ^{generic}	
	Advair Diskus (250/50 mcg) generics now available DPI, Inhub	1 inh BID	\$113 /60 inh \$55 ^{generic}	
fluticasone propionate + salmeterol	Advair Diskus (500/50 mcg) generics now available DPI, Inhub	1 inh BID	\$161 /60 inh \$78 ^{generic}	
mometasone furoate + indacaterol	Ateectura Breezhaler (80/150 mcg) Ateectura Breezhaler (160/150 mcg) Ateectura Breezhaler (320/150 mcg)	1 inh once a day	\$63 /30 inh	non-benefit
mometasone furoate + formoterol	Zenhale MDI (100/5 mcg) Zenhale MDI (200/5 mcg)	2 inh BID	\$94 /120 inh \$116 /120 inh	limited coverage
LAMA Long Acting Muscarinic Antagonist (asthma add onto ICS+LABA)				
tiotropium	Spiriva Respimat (2.5 mcg)	2 inh once a day	\$59 /60 inh	regular benefit
ICS+LAMA+LABA Inhaled Corticosteroid + Long Acting Muscarinic Antagonist + Long Acting Beta₂ Agonist				
mometasone furoate + glycopyrronium + indacaterol	Energair Breezhaler (160/50/150 mcg)	1 inh once a day	\$111 /30 inh	under review

HFA hydrofluoroalkane; MDI metered dose inhaler; mcg micrograms; inh inhalations; PRN when necessary; BID twice a day; SMT Symbicort Maintenance Therapy (given with a separate fast-acting inhaled bronchodilator e.g., salbutamol or terbutaline); SMART Symbicort Maintenance and Reliever Therapy; Cost without mark-up and professional fee; calculated from McKesson Canada <https://www.mckesson.ca/> (Accessed Nov 27, 2020)

¹ [Health Canada Drug Product Monographs](#)

² [BC PAD COPD Newsletter 2017](#)