

**Prescribing tip for information**

### Device Change: Re-usable Spiriva Respimat Inhaler

The Spiriva Respimat 2.5microgram (tiotropium) inhaler device, has been redesigned to allow for reusable cartridges. The original devices are no longer being produced and refill devices have been automatically supplied to pharmacies since September 2019. Patients taking a Spiriva Respimat will at some point be automatically switched over.

Patients should be counselled on how to use the refill device, including how to replace, load and prime new cartridges. Information is available on the Patient Information Leaflet or can be accessed on [the Electronic Medicines Compendium](#)



The updated device allows for up to 6 refill cartridges to be used before the inhaler device requires replacement. The device has a cartridge counter to keep track of how many cartridges have been used (see in the image above). Each cartridge, which contains a month supply, also has a dose indicator which indicates to the patient when a new prescription is needed, and the cartridge needs to be installed.

Dose Indicator on refill cartridge		
60 puffs remaining	Less than 10 puffs remaining. Obtain a new cartridge.	Cartridge is used up and needs to be replaced.

**Points to note when prescribing**

For more sustainable prescribing:

- Issue one prescription for **a cartridge with a device** every 6 months
- Issue 5 months of prescriptions for a **refill cartridge only**
- Both prescriptions currently cost the same.

On EMIS the products appear like this:

- Spiriva Respimat 2.5micrograms/dose inhalation solution refill cartridge
- Spiriva Respimat 2.5micrograms/dose inhalation solution cartridge with device

**To contact the Medicines Optimisation Team please phone 01772 214302**