

Prescribing tip for information

Inhaler Ingredients – Avoiding Duplication Errors

Prescribing inhalers is becoming more complex due to the number of products available on the market. Identifying the ingredients in each inhaler, is key to preventing prescribing errors from taking place. The RightBreathe website is an easy-to-use resource which helps identify ingredients and drug classification of each inhaler.

Across the Greater Preston, Chorley and South Ribble CCGs several prescribing errors have been identified where patients have received prolonged courses of two or more drugs from the same class. These errors have caused effects such as tremor, anxiety, ECG changes and even hospital admissions.

Prescribing guide

Name of Drug Class	SABA	SAMA	LAMA	LABA	ICS
	Short-acting beta2-agonist	Short-Acting Muscarinic Antagonists	Long-Acting Muscarinic Antagonists	Long-acting beta2-agonist	Inhaled Corticosteroids
Generic drugs names included <i>NOTE: the ending helps identify the class</i>	<i>Salbutamol, Terbutaline</i>	<i>Ipratropium (Atrovent)</i>	<i>Tiotropium, Aclidinium, Glycopyrronium, Umeclidinium</i>	<i>Formoterol, Salmeterol, Olodaterol, Indacaterol</i>	<i>Beclometasone, Fluticasone, Mometasone, Budesonide, Ciclesonide</i>
Rules to observe when prescribing multiple inhalers.	Can be prescribed with any other inhaler	Should not be prescribed with another Muscarinic Antagonist e.g SAMA or LAMA	Should not be prescribed with another Muscarinic Antagonist e.g SAMA or LAMA	Should not be prescribed with another Long-acting Beta2-agonist (LABA)	Can be prescribed with any other inhaler. Two ICS's can be used together under secondary care supervision, usually Ciclesonide.
Combination devices available <i>Where errors are most likely to occur</i>				LAMA / LABA Combinations e.g. Duaklir, Ultibro, Spiolto Respimat & Anoro Ellipta	
				LABA / ICS Combinations e.g. Fostair, Symbicort, Seretide, Combisal & many more	
				LAMA / LABA / ICS Combinations e.g. Trelegy Ellipta, Trimbrow, Trixeo	

Adding an inhaler from a discharge letter, completing a medication review or authorising a prescription? THINK, what ingredients does this contain? Check for any duplication.