



Clenil supply problems

We are aware of supply problems with Clenil and other pressurised metered dose inhalers (pMDI). This is due to a significant increased demand. In order to support the medicines supply chain **Prescribers must not issue prescriptions for more than 1 of any type of inhaler.**

Alternatives if Clenil is unavailable:

1) Preferred choice: Soprobec (pMDI)

Soprobec is equivalent to Clenil and patients can be switched on a dose for dose basis.

Soprobec is our new formulary choice and is the preferred option, if available. Whilst there are some current supply issues the manufacturer has stated that there is plenty of stock and that the issue is with the wholesalers not keeping enough stock.

Note - pMDIs containing beclomethasone **must be prescribed by brand** due to differences in bioavailability.

Inhalers containing micro-fine particles (QVar and Kelhale) are not interchangeable with inhalers containing standard size particles (Clenil and Soprobec) on a mg for mg basis.

If patients use spacer devices they should continue to do so.

Inhalation technique for pMDIs is **“SLOW and STEADY”**. Please see **ASTHMA UK inhaler technique resources** <https://www.asthma.org.uk/inhalervideos>

2) Budesonide Easyhaler

Patients may be switched from beclomethasone pMDI to budesonide Easyhaler Dry Powder Inhaler (DPI) on a dose for dose basis. Budesonide Easyhaler is available in 100microgram, 200microgram and 400microgram strengths. The 100microgram strength is licensed for use in children 6 years and above.

Note - Inhaler technique differs between pMDIs and DPIs so patient education is required. In order to limit patient contact during the Covid-19 pandemic it is advised that patients are recommended to use the **ASTHMA UK inhaler technique resources** <https://www.asthma.org.uk/inhalervideos>

Patients should be advised that spacers should not be used with DPIs and encouraged to rinse their mouth after use.

A Beclometasone Easyhaler (DPI) is available, but only as 200microgram strength which is licensed for adults. Patients may be switched from beclometasone pMDI on a dose for dose basis.

Local Guidance

For further information on inhaler choices please refer to the latest local asthma guidance (attached and on the Primary Care Portal). The guidance has recently been updated in response to the GP contract which advises patients are switched to low carbon inhalers e.g. DPIs, where clinically appropriate. This includes:

- Budesonide Easyhaler has replaced QVAR Easi-Breathe at step 2, so that Easyhaler is the DPI product of choice at each step.
- **The dry powder inhalers are now above MDIs in the chart.**

This edition is also available on GP Portal

Disclaimer

Information in this newsletter is believed to be accurate and true. NHS Nene CCG and NHS Corby CCG employees accept no liability for loss of any nature, to persons, organisations or institutions that may arise as a result of any errors or omissions.