

# DRUG SAFETY NOTICE

## Supply Shortage

### DRUG NAME/STRENGTH/Form:

Flixotide (fluticasone) 125micrograms/dose and 250micrograms/dose Evohaler

### PROBLEM

- Flixotide (fluticasone) 125micrograms/dose and 250micrograms/dose Evohaler is out of stock from late June until mid-July 2024.

### ALTERNATIVES

- Flixotide (fluticasone) Accuhaler 100microgram, 250microgram and 500microgram remain available and can support a full uplift in demand.
- Where these are not suitable options, alternative corticosteroid inhalers, including beclomethasone metered dose inhalers, are available.

### ADVICE

Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply date, clinicians should:

- Review and discuss treatment options with them taking into account individual clinical requirements e.g., need for a spacer, to aid selection of an alternative treatment option (see Supporting information);
- Consider prescribing sufficient supply of an appropriate strength Flixotide Accuhaler , a dry powder inhaler (DPI), to last until the resupply date, in patients able to use this device;
- Where patients are already prescribed a Flixotide 125 micrograms/dose Evohaler and a salmeterol 25micrograms inhaler separately, consider prescribing Seretide 125 Evohaler as this combination inhaler delivers the same doses of these components;
- Where patients are already prescribed a Flixotide 250 micrograms/dose Evohaler and a salmeterol inhaler separately, consider prescribing Seretide 250 Evohaler as this combination inhaler delivers the same doses of these components;
- If the above options are not appropriate, consider prescribing an alternative inhaled corticosteroid in line with NICE asthma guidelines;

And

- Counsel patients and carers on inhaler technique and dose to administer after switching treatment, and monitor symptom control (see Supporting information).

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **Switching from pressurised metered dose inhaler to dry powder inhaler (DPI):**

As DPIs are not compatible with spacer devices, they would **not** be a suitable option for patients who require a spacer.

For patients considered suitable for a Flixotide (100microgram, 250microgram or 500microgram) Accuhaler, additional counselling will be required regarding the new device and different method of administration and/or dosing regimen prescribed.

Children who are prescribed an alternative fluticasone inhaler should be present during counselling to ensure inhaler technique is correct.

Further guidance including videos advising patients on how to use dry powdered inhalers (Accuhaler) and metered dose inhalers (Evohaler) with spacers can be found on the Asthma + Lung UK website.

### **Alternative corticosteroid inhaler**

NICE have developed tables to support the recommendations on inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) dosages in its guideline on asthma, indicating low, moderate, and high ICS dosages for adult and paediatric maintenance therapy. This can be used as an aid to product selection.

## **RESOURCE LINKS**

[NICE guideline on asthma](#)

[Inhaled corticosteroid doses for NICE's asthma guideline](#)

[SmPC Flixotide \(fluticasone\) Accuhaler](#)

[SmPC Flixotide \(fluticasone\) Evohaler](#)

[SmPC Seretide Evohaler](#)

[BTS/SIGN guideline on the management of asthma](#)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR WARD BASED PHARMACY TEAM  
OR  
THE PHARMACY DEPARTMENT (CITY ext.5263; SANDWELL ext.3783).**

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PATIENTS  
PEOPLE  
POPULATION

