

Quick reference guide

Inhaled corticosteroids for the treatment of chronic asthma in children under the age of 12 years

Guidance

This guidance should be read in conjunction with Inhaler devices for routine treatment of chronic asthma in older children (aged 5–15 years), NICE technology appraisal guidance 38, and Guidance on the use of inhaler systems (devices) in children under the age of 5 years with chronic asthma, NICE technology appraisal guidance 10. The future discontinuation of CFC-containing inhaler devices will affect the range of devices available but does not affect the guidance.

- 1 For children under the age of 12 years with chronic asthma in whom treatment with an inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) is considered appropriate, the least costly product that is suitable for an individual child (taking into consideration technology appraisal guidance 38 and 10), within its marketing authorisation, is recommended.

- 2 For children under the age of 12 years with chronic asthma in whom treatment with an ICS and long-acting beta-2 agonist (LABA) is considered appropriate, the following apply.

- The use of a combination device within its marketing authorisation is recommended as an option.
- The decision to use a combination device or the two agents in separate devices should be made on an individual basis, taking into consideration therapeutic need and the likelihood of treatment adherence.
- If a combination device is chosen then the least costly device that is suitable for the individual child is recommended.

NICE technology appraisal guidance 131

This guidance represents the view of the Institute, which was arrived at after careful consideration of the available evidence. Healthcare professionals are expected to take it fully into account when exercising their clinical judgement. This guidance does not, however, override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make appropriate decisions in the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

NICE technology appraisal guidance is about the use of new and existing medicines and treatments in the NHS in England and Wales.

Implementation tools

NICE has developed tools to help organisations implement this guidance (listed below). These are available on our website (www.nice.org.uk/TA131).

- Audit criteria to monitor local practice.
- A costing statement explaining the resource impact of this guidance.

Further information

Ordering information

You can download the following documents from www.nice.org.uk/TA131

- A quick reference guide (this document) – a summary of recommendations for healthcare professionals.
- 'Understanding NICE guidance' – information for patients and carers.
- The full guidance.
- Details of all the evidence that was looked at and other background information.

For printed copies of the quick reference guide or 'Understanding NICE guidance', phone the NHS Response Line on 0870 1555 455 and quote:

- N1400 (quick reference guide)
- N1401 ('Understanding NICE guidance').

Related NICE guidance

For information about NICE guidance that has been issued or is in development, see the website (www.nice.org.uk)

Published

- Inhaler devices for routine treatment of chronic asthma in older children (aged 5–15 years). NICE technology appraisal guidance 38 (2002). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/TA038
- Guidance on the use of inhaler systems (devices) in children under the age of 5 years with chronic asthma. NICE technology appraisal guidance 10 (2000). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/TA010

Under development

- Inhaled corticosteroids for the treatment of chronic asthma in adults and children aged 12 years and over. NICE technology appraisal guidance (publication date to be confirmed).

Updating the appraisal

This technology appraisal will be considered for review in November 2012. Information about the progress of a review will be posted on the NICE website (www.nice.org.uk/TA131)