

**Drug Class Review: Inhaled corticosteroids (ICS) +  
long-acting beta-agonists (LABA) combination  
products for treatment of chronic obstructive  
pulmonary disease (COPD)**

Comprehensive Research Plan: Environmental Scan Unit

January 10, 2014

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- Objectives:**
1. To summarize the pharmacy benefit programs for ICS/LABA for COPD in Ontario, across Canada and in select international jurisdictions
  2. To determine the impact of different drug reimbursement schemes for ICS/LABA (e.g., restricted access) on patient access, patient satisfaction, quality of life and/or utilization and costs
  3. To summarize the guidelines for management of COPD, in particular the role of ICS/LABA
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- Study Questions:** In adult patients with COPD:
1. How are ICS/LABA currently being accessed in publicly funded programs across Canada as well as internationally?
  2. What is the impact of different drug reimbursement schemes for ICS/LABA (e.g., restricted access) on patient access, patient satisfaction, quality of life and/or utilization and costs?
  3. Does sex, gender or socioeconomic status play an important role in any of the analyses described?

### Objective 1: Pharmacy Benefit Programs in Ontario, across Canada and internationally

- Study Design:**
- Design: summary of available information available through the Internet; interviews with individuals at the government agencies responsible for the public drug plan
- Data sources: Internet, direct contact with individuals

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- Study Population:**
- Canada: provincial/territorial public plans
  - England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland: NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence)
  - Australia: Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
  - United States: Medicare, Veterans Affairs
  - New Zealand: PHARMAC (Pharmaceutical Management Agency)
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**Intervention:**

- ICS/LABA for treatment of COPD:
  - Advair (fluticasone/salmeterol), Symbicort (formoterol/budesonide), Zenhale (formoterol/mometasone), BreoEllipta (vilanterol/fluticasone)

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**Outcome(s) of Interest:** Drug Reimbursement Criteria and Policies:

- Restricted Access vs. General Benefit
- Specific restriction criteria

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### Objective 2: Impact of different drug reimbursement schemes for ICS/LABA for COPD

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**Study Design:** Design: Literature review  
Data sources: Medline, EMBASE, Cochrane Collection, Grey literature

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**Study Population:** Adult patients with COPD

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**Intervention:** Various drug reimbursement schemes, including general benefits, step therapy, special authorization

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**Outcome(s) of Interest:** Indirect/direct measurements of clinical outcomes, patient satisfaction, quality of life, utilization and/or costs

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### Objective 3: Guidelines for management of COPD

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**Study Design:** Design: Literature review  
Data sources: Medline, EMBASE, Cochrane Collection, Grey literature

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**Study Population:** Adult patients with COPD

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**Intervention:** Guidelines/recommendations for the management of adult patients with COPD

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**Outcome(s) of Interest:** Published guidelines by various organizations including Canadian Thoracic Society, Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD), NICE guidelines

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