

Comprehensive Research Plan: Inhaled corticosteroids + long-acting beta agonists (ICS+LABA) for the treatment of asthma

Environmental Scan Unit

June 11, 2014

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- Objectives:**
1. To summarize the pharmacy benefit programs for ICS/LABA for asthma 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 asthma, in particular the role of ICS/LABA
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- Study Questions:** In children 12 years of age and older, and in adult patients with asthma:
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 for patients with asthma?

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 asthma:
 - 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

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

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

Study Population: Children 12 years of age and older, and adults patients with asthma

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

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

Objective 3: Guidelines for management of asthma

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

Study Population: Children 12 years of age and older, and adults patients with asthma

Intervention: Guidelines/recommendations for the management of children 12 years and older, and adult patients with asthma

Outcome(s) of Interest: Published guidelines by various organizations including Canadian Thoracic Society, NICE guidelines and others
