ICS+LABA Combination Products for Asthma and COPD

About

Asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are common diseases in Ontario. They result in considerable costs to the Ontario Public Drug Programs (OPDP) and are a large burden to the healthcare system.

Inhaled corticosteroid and long-acting beta-agonist (ICS+LABA) combination products are respiratory inhaled used for the treatment of asthma and COPD.

ICS+LABA products are effective for asthma and COPD management.

There are four different ICS+LABA products:

- **ZENHALL** indicated for asthma
- **Advair** indicated for asthma and COPD
- **Symbicort** indicated for asthma and COPD
- **Breo Ellipta** indicated for COPD

As a class, all ICS+LABA products increased risk of pneumonia in COPD.

The use of ICS+LABA combination products has increased approximately 13% over the past 4 years.

ICS+LABA is frequently prescribed

Physicians may find it difficult to determine which patients are on ICS+LABA for COPD management, as diagnosis and assessing disease severity is complex.

Patients are mostly compliant with ICS+LABA use for asthma, but those who aren’t may stop taking the drugs due to high costs, fear of steroids, and their perception of disease severity.

What Do We Recommend?

We recommend listing all ICS+LABA products as Limited Use for asthma and COPD.

The projected impact of expanding the Limited Use listing to patients with COPD is minimal, as physicians currently use the LU code for asthma to access these drugs for patients with COPD.

Visit the Ontario Public Drug Programs website to determine who is eligible for ICS+LABA. View the final report at www.ODPRN.ca

Visit www.autodprn.ca for more information about the work we do.

**FACEBOOK:** ODPRN

**TWITTER:** @odprn_research

$72.5 million (64%) of this expenditure was on ICS+LABA products

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