



Preferred Drug List

NEW DRUG REVIEW

Proprietary Name: Symbicort®

Common Name: Budesonide & Formoterol

PDL Category: Antiasthmatic - Adrenergic Combos

<u>Comparable Products</u>	<u>Preferred Drug List/ Recommended Drug List Status</u>
Advair® (Fluticasone & Salmeterol)	Preferred

Summary

Indications and Usage: Long-term maintenance of asthma in patients 12 years of age and older

Mechanism of Action: Budesonide: reduces airway inflammation by inhibiting multiple cell types and mediators involved in allergic and non-allergy mediated inflammation. Formoterol: stimulates beta₂ adrenergic receptors thus relaxing smooth muscle in the airway

Dosage Forms: Inhalation aerosol, 80/4.5mcg and 160/4.5mcg

Recommended Dosage: Start with 2 inhalations twice daily; may taper up as necessary or start higher if already on inhaled corticosteroid therapy

Common Adverse Drug Reactions: Nasopharyngitis, headache, URI, sinusitis

Contraindications: Previous hypersensitivity to any component of the product, treatment of acute asthma

Manufacturer: AstraZeneca

Analysis: Symbicort® combines an anti-inflammatory corticosteroid with a long-acting beta₂ adrenergic agonist for the maintenance of asthma. The product is formulated as an aerosol, which provides a more rapid onset of action. In clinical studies compared to placebo, Symbicort® demonstrated a median time of onset of clinically significant bronchodilation (> 15% improvement in FEV₁) of 15 minutes. Similarly designed trials comparing Advair® to placebo showed this time to be 30-60 minutes. Both products showed maximum improvement in FEV₁ at 3 hours after administration and clinically significant improvement was maintained over 12 hours. Symbicort® and Advair® report comparable change from baseline in the evening peak expiratory flow at 34 and 35 L/min respectively. Symbicort® is therefore, clinically similar to Advair® but significantly less cost effective. It is recommended that Symbicort® be added to the Preferred Drug List as a Non-Preferred Drug.

IME Recommendation:

<input type="checkbox"/> Preferred Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended Drug
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Preferred Drug	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Recommended Drug
<input type="checkbox"/> Preferred Drug with Conditions	