

## Appendix A – Asthma Inhalation Drug Dosing and Cost<sup>7</sup>

| Generic name  | Trade name (formulation)                                 | Standard Rx <sup>a</sup> for adult and patients ≥ 6 yrs <sup>a</sup> (max dose) <sup>b</sup>   | Cost <sup>c</sup> per puff (strength)                                | PharmaCare Coverage  |
|---|--|--|--|----------------------|
| <b>Short-Acting Beta-2 Agonists Inhaled (SABA)</b>                                |  |  |  |                      |
| salbutamol  | <b>Airomir™</b> (pMDI)<br><b>Ventolin® HFA, Generics</b> | ≥ <b>6 yrs:</b> 100-200 mcg qid prn<br>( <b>max 6-11 yrs:</b> 400 mcg per day)<br>( <b>max ≥ 12 yrs:</b> 800 mcg per day)            | \$ 0.04 (120 mcg)<br>\$ 0.07 (100 mcg)<br>\$ 0.02-0.04 (100 mcg)     | Regular benefit, LCA |
|   | <b>Ventolin® Diskus®</b> (DPI)                           | ≥ <b>6 yrs:</b> 200 mcg tid-qid prn  | \$ 0.23 (200 mcg)  | Not a benefit        |
| terbutaline   | <b>Bricanyl® Turbuhaler®</b> (DPI)                       | ≥ <b>6 yrs:</b> 500 mcg prn (max 3000 mcg per day)   | \$ 0.08 (500 mcg)  | Regular benefit      |
| <b>Inhaled Corticosteroid (ICS)</b>   |  |  |  |                      |
| beclomethasone dipropionate   | <b>Qvar™ HFA</b> (pMDI)                                  | <b>6-11 yrs:</b> 50-100 mcg bid<br>≥ <b>12 yrs:</b> 50-400 mcg bid   | \$ 0.16, \$ 0.31 (50 mcg, 100 mcg)                                   | Regular benefit      |
| budesonide  | <b>Pulmicort® Turbuhaler®</b> (DPI)                      | <b>6-12 yrs:</b> 100-200 mcg bid<br>> <b>12 yrs:</b> 400-2400 mcg per day divided bid-qid  | \$ 0.16, \$ 0.33, \$ 0.58 (100 mcg, 200 mcg, 400 mcg)                | Regular benefit      |
| ciclesonide   | <b>Alvesco®</b> (pMDI)                                   | <b>6-11 yrs:</b> 100-200 mcg once daily (may divide dose to bid)<br>≥ <b>12 yrs:</b> 100-800 mcg once daily (may divide dose to bid) | \$ 0.38, 0.63 (100 mcg, 200 mcg)                                     | Regular benefit      |
| fluticasone propionate  | <b>Flovent® HFA</b> (pMDI)                               | <b>6-16 yrs:</b> 50-200 mcg bid<br>≥ <b>16 yrs:</b> 100-1000 mcg bid   | \$ 0.21, \$ 0.36, \$ 0.72 (50 mcg, 125 mcg, 250 mcg)                 | Regular benefit      |
|   | <b>Flovent® Diskus®</b> (DPI)                            | <b>6-16 yrs:</b> 50-200 mcg bid<br>≥ <b>16 yrs:</b> 100-1000 mcg bid   | \$ 0.27 - 1.44 (50 mcg, 100 mcg, 250 mcg, 500 mcg)                   | Regular benefit      |
| <b>Inhaled Corticosteroid / Long-acting Beta-2 Agonist Combination (ICS/LABA)</b> |  |  |  |                      |
| budesonide/formoterol   | <b>Symbicort® Turbuhaler®</b> (DPI)                      | ≥ <b>12 yrs:</b> i-ii puffs once or twice daily plus prn up to 8 puffs per day   | \$ 0.54 (100/6 mcg)<br>\$ 0.74 (200/6 mcg)                           | Limited coverage     |
| fluticasone/salmeterol  | <b>Advair® Diskus®</b> (DPI)                             | <b>6-11 yrs:</b> i puff bid [100/50]<br>≥ <b>12 yrs:</b> i puff bid [100/50, 250/50, 500/50]   | \$ 1.40 (100/50 mcg)<br>\$ 1.68 (250/50 mcg)<br>\$ 2.37 (500/50 mcg) | Limited coverage     |
| fluticasone/salmeterol  | <b>Advair®</b> (pMDI)                                    | ≥ <b>12 yrs:</b> ii puffs bid [125/25 mcg, 250/25 mcg]   | \$ 0.84 (125/25 mcg)<br>\$ 1.19 (250/25 mcg)                         | Limited coverage     |

| Long-Acting Beta-2 Agonists Inhaled (LABA)<br>(Note – LABA's are contraindicated as monotherapy) |   |   |                                      |                  |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| formoterol fumarate  | <b>Foradil®</b><br>(DPI)  | ≥ <b>6 yrs:</b> 12-24 mcg bid                                     | \$ 0.84 (12 mcg)                     | Limited coverage |
| formoterol fumarate dihydrate  | <b>Oxeze®</b><br><b>Turbuhaler®</b><br>(DPI)  | <b>6-16 yrs:</b> 6-12 mcg bid<br><b>&gt; 16 yrs:</b> 6-24 mcg bid | \$ 0.58 (6 mcg)<br>\$ 0.78 (12 mcg)  | Limited coverage |
| Salmeterol   | <b>Serevent®</b><br><b>Diskus®,</b><br><b>Serevent®</b><br><b>Diskhaler®</b><br>(DPI) | ≥ <b>6 yrs:</b> 50 mcg bid  | \$ 0.98 (50 mcg)<br>\$ 0.98 (50 mcg) | Limited coverage |

**Abbreviations:** DPI = dry powder inhaler; HFA = hydrofluoroalkane; max = maximum; pMDI = pressurized metered dose inhaler (aerosol); yrs = year

**Notes:** a. Dosage (number of puffs or inhalations) as per manufacturer's drug monograph b. If no maximum dose, consider upper limit of dosage range as maximum dose. c. Prices are approximate retail cost as of September 2009 and do not including dispensing fee.

**PharmaCare coverage:**

Spacers are not currently listed as a PharmaCare benefit. PharmaCare coverage as of February 2010.

**Regular benefit drugs** - do not require Special Authority. Patients may receive full or partial coverage since some of these drugs are included in the Low Cost Alternative (LCA) program.

**Low Cost Alternative (LCA)** - When multiple medications contain the same active ingredient (usually generic products), patients receive full coverage for the drug with the lowest average PharmaCare claimed price. The remaining products are partial benefits.

**Limited coverage drugs** - require Special Authority. These drugs are not normally regarded as first-line therapies or there are drugs for which a more cost-effective alternative exists.

**In all cases** - coverage is subject to drug price limits set by PharmaCare and to the patient's PharmaCare plan rules and deductibles.

Please review product monographs at <http://webprod.hc-sc.gc.ca/dpd-bdpp/index-eng.jsp> and regularly review current Health Canada advisories, warnings and recalls at: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/>  
See <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/> for further information.



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