

**Distribution:** As Appendix 1

**From:** Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, Andrew Evans

**Date:** 14 December 2021

**Reference:** CEM/CPhA/2021/45

**Category:** Immediate – Action within 24 hours

**Title:** Covid-19 Therapeutic Alert: Withdrawal of the Recommendation for Consideration of Inhaled Budesonide as a Treatment Option for COVID-19 (this replaces CEM/CPhA/2021/10 – 13 April 2021)

**For Action and information by:**

- All General Practitioners – please ensure this message is seen by all relevant staff working in your practice and retain a copy in your 'locum information pack'.
- Dispensing General Practitioners – please ensure this message is seen by all working in your dispensary and retain a copy in your 'locum information pack'.
- Community Pharmacists
- Chief Pharmacists
- Medical Directors

**Issue:**

Inhaled budesonide should no longer be considered as a treatment for individuals with COVID-19 infection other than within the context of a clinical trial. People already using budesonide for conditions other than COVID-19 should continue treatment if they test positive for COVID-19.

Final results from the [PRINCIPLE](#) and [STOIC](#) trials of inhaled budesonide as a treatment for mild to moderate COVID-19 infection have been published.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has updated its [COVID-19 Rapid Guideline](#) to recommend that inhaled budesonide is only used to treat COVID-19 as part of a clinical trial.

**Action**

Clinical teams within primary and secondary care, community pharmacies and dispensing practices are asked to note the revised recommendation that:

Inhaled budesonide should no longer be considered as a treatment for individuals with COVID-19 infection other than within the context of a clinical trial.

Prescribers may wish to refer to the [NICE COVID-19 Rapid Guideline](#) for further information.

**Send to:**

Chief Executives of Health Boards  
Medical Directors of Health Boards  
Nurse Directors Health Boards  
Directors of Public Health  
Health Board Chief Pharmacists  
Hospital Chief Pharmacists  
PHW Consultants in Pharmaceutical Public Health  
Chief Executives of NHS Trusts  
Principal Pharmacist Welsh Quality Control  
Principal Pharmacist Welsh Medicines Information Centre  
AWTTC  
NHS Direct

**NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership to forward to:**

General Practitioners  
Dispensing General Practitioners  
Community Pharmacists  
Independent / Private clinics and Hospitals and Hospices throughout  
Wales

**Welsh Government:**

Chief Medical Officer  
Chief Nursing Officer  
Chief Scientific Officer  
Director General Health and Social Services Group  
Emergency Planning Adviser  
Deputy Director Primary Care  
Director Primary Care & Innovation  
HSSG Comms  
NHS Procurement Specialists