



Distribution: As Appendix 1

From: Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, Andrew Evans

Date: 13 April 2021

Reference: CEM/CPhA/2021/10

Category: Immediate – Action within 24 hours

Title: Covid-19 Therapeutic Alert: Inhaled Budesonide for Adults (50 Years and Over) with COVID-19

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 is not currently being recommended as standard of care but can be considered on a case-by-case basis for symptomatic COVID-19 positive patients aged 65 and over, or aged 50 or over with co-morbidities, in line with the attached Interim Position Statement. This use of inhaled budesonide in the management of COVID-19 is off-label.

The PRINCIPLE trial has reported a three-day median benefit in self-reported recovery for patients with COVID-19 in the community setting who received inhaled budesonide. The impact on hospitalisation rates or mortality has not been established, but the evaluation is ongoing, so recommendations may change as more data become available.

Send to:

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Nurse Directors Health Boards
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Health Board Chief Pharmacists
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AWTTC
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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
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