

AirDuo RespiClick, a New Inhaler for Patients with Asthma

Asthma is a chronic, yet reversible respiratory disease characterized by airflow obstruction due to inflammation of the airways. In 2015, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that 18.4 million adults and 6.2 million children, or approximately 7.8% of the United States population, are affected by asthma.¹ Nearly 60% of those patients have persistent asthma and warrant maintenance treatment involving an inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) with or without a long-acting beta₂-agonist (LABA).¹⁻³

In 2017, the FDA approved the brand and generic formulations of AirDuo RespiClick (fluticasone propionate and salmeterol) for the maintenance treatment of asthma in patients 12 years and older whose disease remains uncontrolled despite long-term ICS treatment or necessitates the use of an ICS/LABA combination.⁴ AirDuo RespiClick shares the same ingredients as Advair products, but is available as a generic at a fraction of a cost of five other branded ICS/LABA inhalers. Table 1 compares the available fluticasone-salmeterol combination inhalers.⁴⁻⁶ While there is no comparative effectiveness data, one dose-ranging trial showed that the 118/13.2 mcg multi-dose dry powder inhaler (MDPI) had similar clinical efficacy with lower systemic exposure than the 100/50 mcg dry powder inhaler (DPI) formulation.⁴ **Therefore, the cost-effective generic AirDuo RespiClick is the preferred agent for CalOptima's members with asthma.**

Table 1. Fluticasone propionate and salmeterol combination inhalers⁴⁻⁶

Device	AirDuo RespiClick MDPI	Advair Diskus DPI	Advair HFA Aerosol
Inhaler considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breath-actuated No priming required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breath-actuated No priming required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand-breath coordination needed Priming required May use with a spacer
Dose (mcg)	55/14, 113/14, 232/14*	100/50, 250/50, 500/50	45/21, 114/21, 230/21
Regimen	1 inhalation BID	1 inhalation BID	2 inhalations BID
Indication	Asthma ≥12 years old	Asthma ≥4 years old; COPD	Asthma ≥12 years old
Contraindication	Primary treatment of status asthmaticus and acute episodes of asthma; Severe hypersensitivity to milk proteins (except for Advair HFA)		
Generic available	Yes	No	No

* The doses of phase 3 and commercial products were optimized to better match the strengths to the comparators.

Table 2. Formulary status of ICS and LABA combination inhalers

Drugs	Brand	MCAL	OC/OCC
fluticasone/salmeterol	Generic AirDuo RespiClick	Formulary with ST [‡]	Formulary
	AirDuo RespiClick	PA	NF
	Advair Diskus	Formulary with ST [†]	Formulary
	Advair HFA	Formulary with ST [†]	Formulary
fluticasone/vilanterol	Breo Ellipta	Formulary with ST [†]	Formulary
budesonide/formoterol	Symbicort	Formulary with ST [†]	Formulary
mometasone/formoterol	Dulera	Formulary with ST [†]	Formulary

MCAL = Medi-Cal, OC = OneCare, OCC = OneCare Connect, ST = step therapy, PA = prior authorization, NF = non-formulary

‡ Trial of ICS required

† Trial of generic AirDuo RespiClick required

References

1. CDC. Most Recent Asthma Data. https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/most_recent_data.htm. Accessed on 5/2/2018.
2. 2018 GINA Report: global strategy for asthma management and prevention. Global Initiative for Asthma website. <http://ginasthma.org/2018-gina-report-global-strategy-for-asthma-management-and-prevention/>. Accessed 5/2/2018.
3. National Asthma Education and Prevention Program Expert Panel Report 3: Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of asthma 2007. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, NIH Publication No. 08-5846.
4. AirDuo RespiClick (fluticasone propionate and salmeterol) [prescribing information]. Frazer, PA: Teva Respiratory, LLC.
5. Advair Diskus (fluticasone propionate and salmeterol) [prescribing information]. Research Triangle Park, NC: GlaxoSmithKline.
6. Advair HFA (fluticasone propionate and salmeterol) [prescribing information]. Research Triangle Park, NC: GlaxoSmithKline.

The CalOptima Approved Drug List is available on our website: www.caloptima.org
and for PDA download at www.epocrates.com