

CARE VALUE POLICY

- POLICY:** Pulmonary – Corticosteroid/Long-Acting Beta₂-Agonist Combination Inhalers Care Value Policy
- Advair Diskus[®] (fluticasone propionate/salmeterol inhalation powder – GlaxoSmithKline; generic, including Wixela Inhub[®])
 - Advair[®] HFA (fluticasone propionate/salmeterol inhalation aerosol – GlaxoSmithKline, generic)
 - AirDuo[®] Digihaler[®] (fluticasone propionate/salmeterol inhalation powder – Teva)
 - AirDuo[®] RespiClick[®] (fluticasone propionate/salmeterol inhalation powder – Teva, generic)
 - Breo[®] Ellipta[®] (fluticasone furoate/vilanterol inhalation powder – GlaxoSmithKline)
 - Dulera[®] (mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate inhalation aerosol – Merck)
 - Symbicort[®] (budesonide/formoterol fumarate inhalation aerosol – AstraZeneca; generic, including Breyna)

REVIEW DATE: 04/19/2024

OVERVIEW

All of the corticosteroid/long-acting beta₂-agonist combination inhalers are indicated for the treatment of **asthma**.¹⁻⁶ Age indications vary by agent (Table 1). Advair Diskus (generic, including Wixela Inhub), Breo Ellipta, and Symbicort (generic, including Breyna) are also indicated for the maintenance treatment of airflow obstruction and reducing exacerbations in patients with **chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)**, including chronic bronchitis and/or emphysema.^{1,3,5} Advair HFA (authorized generic) and Dulera are not FDA-approved for the treatment of COPD; however, both products have been studied for this use.^{2,4,7-9} The AirDuo products also have not specifically been studied in patients with COPD. However, these agents were filed as a New Drug Application (NDA) under Section 505(b)(2) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.⁶ This approval pathway relies in part upon evidence not developed by the applicant. In the case of these agents, the literature and safety and effectiveness evidence supporting the approval and use of Advair Diskus (indicated in patients with COPD) are considered part of the evidence supporting the approval and use of the AirDuo products. Of note, there is also an authorized generic to Breo Ellipta which is not targeted in this policy.

Advair HFA (authorized generic), Dulera, and Symbicort (generic, including Breyna) are metered-dose inhalers (MDIs).²⁻⁴ Advair Diskus (generic, including Wixela Inhub), AirDuo RespiClick (authorized generic), and Breo Ellipta (generic) are dry powder inhalers (DPIs).^{1,5,6} AirDuo Digihaler is a DPI with built-in sensors that connect to a companion mobile application and provide inhaler use information.⁶ However, the mobile application is not required for administration of the drug to the patient and there is no evidence the use of the application leads to improved clinical outcomes, including safety and effectiveness. Also of note, Wixela Inhub (fluticasone propionate/salmeterol inhalation powder) is a generic to Advair Diskus that was given a brand name by its manufacturer. Breyna (budesonide/formoterol fumarate inhalation aerosol) is a generic to Symbicort that was given a brand name by its manufacturer.

Table 1. FDA-Approved Indications.¹⁻⁶

Brand (generic)	COPD*	Reduction of COPD Exacerbations [†]	Asthma (patients ≥ 18 years of age)	Asthma (patients 12 to 17 years of age)	Asthma (patients 4 to 12 years of age)
Advair Diskus [®] (fluticasone propionate and salmeterol inhalation powder, generic, including Wixela Inhub)	X (250 mcg/ 50 mcg)	X (250 mcg/ 50 mcg)	X	X	X
Advair [®] HFA (fluticasone propionate and salmeterol inhalation aerosol, authorized generic)	--	--	X	X	--
AirDuo [®] Digihaler [™] (fluticasone propionate and salmeterol inhalation powder)	--	--	X	X	--
AirDuo [®] RespiClick [®] (fluticasone propionate and salmeterol inhalation powder, authorized generic)	--	--	X	X	--
Breo [®] Ellipta [®] (fluticasone furoate and vilanterol inhalation powder, generic)	X	X	X	X	X (≥ 5 years)
Dulera [®] (mometasone furoate and formoterol fumarate inhalation aerosol)	--	--	X	X	X (≥ 5 years)
Symbicort [®] (budesonide and formoterol fumarate inhalation aerosol, generic, including Breyna)	X	X	X	X	X (≥ 6 years)

COPD – Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; * Maintenance treatment of airflow obstruction in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, including chronic bronchitis and/or emphysema; [†] In patients with a history of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease exacerbations; -- Not indicated for the condition.

POLICY STATEMENT

This program has been developed to encourage the use of a Step 1 Product prior to the use of a Step 2 Product. If the Preferred Step Therapy rule is not met for a Step 2 Product at the point of service, coverage will be determined by the Preferred Step Therapy criteria below. All approvals are provided for 1 year in duration. Note: Brand Advair HFA is not targeted in the High Performance Formulary steps. The authorized generic to Breo Ellipta is also not targeted in this policy.

Automation: A patient with a history of one Step 1 Product within the 130-day look-back period is excluded from Step Therapy.

Basic Formulary and National Preferred Formulary Care Value

Corticosteroid/Long-Acting Beta₂-Agonist Combination Inhalers

Step 1: Advair HFA, Breo Ellipta, Breyna, budesonide/formoterol inhalation aerosol (generic to Symbicort), Dulera, fluticasone/salmeterol inhalation powder (generic to Advair Diskus), Wixela Inhub

Step 2: AirDuo Digihaler, AirDuo RespiClick, fluticasone/salmeterol inhalation aerosol (authorized generic to Advair HFA), fluticasone/salmeterol inhalation powder (authorized generic to AirDuo RespiClick)

Symbicort

Step 1: Breyna, budesonide/formoterol inhalation aerosol (generic to Symbicort)

Step 2: Symbicort

Advair Diskus

Step 1: fluticasone/salmeterol inhalation powder (generic to Advair Diskus), Wixela Inhub

Step 2: Advair Diskus

CRITERIA

1. If the patient has tried one Step 1 Product, approve a Step 2 Product.
2. No other exceptions are recommended.

High Performance Formulary Care Value

Step 1: Breo Ellipta, Breyna, budesonide/formoterol inhalation aerosol (generic to Symbicort), Dulera, fluticasone/salmeterol inhalation powder (generic to Advair Diskus), Wixela Inhub

Step 2: Advair Diskus, AirDuo Digihaler, AirDuo RespiClick, fluticasone/salmeterol inhalation aerosol (authorized generic to Advair HFA), fluticasone/salmeterol inhalation powder (authorized generic to AirDuo RespiClick), Symbicort

CRITERIA

1. If the patient has tried one Step 1 Product, approve a Step 2 Product.
2. No other exceptions are recommended.

REFERENCES

1. Advair Diskus[®] inhalation powder [prescribing information]. Research Triangle Park, NC: GlaxoSmithKline; January 2019.
2. Advair[®] HFA inhalation aerosol [prescribing information]. Research Triangle Park, NC: GlaxoSmithKline; August 2021.
3. Symbicort[®] inhalation aerosol [prescribing information]. Wilmington, DE: AstraZeneca; December 2017.
4. Dulera[®] inhalation aerosol [prescribing information]. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck; August 2019.
5. Breo[®] Ellipta[®] inhalation powder [prescribing information]. Research Triangle Park, NC: GlaxoSmithKline; May 2023.
6. AirDuo[®] RespiClick[®]/AirDuo[®] Digihaler[™] inhalation powder [prescribing information]. Frazer, PA: Teva Respiratory; January 2023.
7. Tashkin DP, Doherty DE, Kerwin E, et al. Efficacy and safety characteristics of mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate fixed-dose combination in subjects with moderate to very severe COPD: findings from pooled analysis of two randomized, 52-week placebo-controlled trials. *Int J Chron Obstruct Pulmon Dis.* 2012;7:73-86.
8. Koser A, Westerman J, Sharma S, et al. Safety and efficacy of fluticasone propionate/salmeterol hydrofluoroalkane 134a metered-dose-inhaler compared with fluticasone propionate/salmeterol diskus in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. *Open Respir Med J.* 2010;4:86-91.
9. Doherty DE, Tashkin DP, Kerwin E, et al. Effects of mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate fixed-dose combination formulation on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD): results from a 52-week Phase III trial in subjects with moderate-to-very severe COPD. *Int J Chron Obstruct Pulmon Dis.* 2012;7:57-71.