All Wales COPD Management and Prescribing Guideline

May 2019

(Updated August 2020 – see overleaf for details)
This document has been prepared by the Respiratory Health Implementation Group, and has subsequently been endorsed by the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG).

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August 2020 update:
This document has been updated to reflect the change in strength of the Anoro Ellipta inhaler from ‘62.5/25’ to ‘55/22’, the addition of a QR code and new AWMSG logo. No further review of content has been made.
The All Wales COPD Management and Prescribing Guideline

More information at icst.info/the-all-wales-copd-and-management-prescribing-guideline

Designed by The Institute of Clinical Science & Technology

Clinical Pathway

The All Wales COPD Management and Prescribing Guideline

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STEP 1 INFORMATION: ASSESSMENT

COPD Symptoms Checklist

Symptoms checklist:
• Smoking history
• Breathlessness (MRC)
• Cough
• Haemoptysis
• Sputum
• Number of exacerbations
• CAT score
• Anxiety
• Depression

Investigations:
• Post-bronchodilator spirometry mandatory
• Chest X-ray (CXR)
• Full Blood Count (FBC)
• Oxygen Sat's (SpO2)

EVIDENCE OF POLYMICRO ABRASION (0.3)

If using SABA daily (2 puffs 2-4 times per day)
Check inhaler technique and adherence

If continued breathlessness:
Check inhaler technique and adherence

STEP 2 INFORMATION: DIAGNOSIS

Symptoms checklist:
• Symptoms of exacerbations per year
• Dyspnoea with less than 2 breathlessness
• COPD with predominant chest pain
• Haemoptysis
• Persistent cough in a smoker

Red Flag Symptoms

Red Flag Symptoms
• Persistent cough in a smoker
• Haemoptysis
• Chest pain
• Unexplained weight loss
• Clubbing in a smoker
• Abnormal CXR

STEP 3 INFORMATION: REFER

Any red flag symptoms

Secondary care referral
Perform CXR
Prescribe a SABA
Check licensed indications

STEP 4 INFORMATION: PRESCRIBE

Phenotype 1
COPD with predominant breathlessness
Dyspnoea with less than 2 exacerbations per year

Phenotype 2
COPD with exacerbation (+/− breathlessness)
Two or more exacerbations per year

Phenotype 3
COPD with asthma overlap
Evidence of significant symptomatic or lung function response to inhaled (oral or inhaled)
Blood eosinophil counts >0.3

Prescribe a SABA
Check licensed indications

If continued breathlessness:
Check inhaler technique and adherence

Prescribe SABA + (LABA + LAMA)
Check licensed indications

If symptoms are stable follow up and if symptoms are worsening continue pathway

If symptoms are stable follow up and if symptoms are worsening continue pathway

Prescribe SABA + (LABA + LAMA)
Check licensed indications

Prescribe SABA + (LABA + IC5)
Check licensed indications

Prescribe SABA + Triple therapy
Check licensed indications

Prescribe Triple therapy
Check licensed indications

SYMPTOMS WORSENING? YES

SABA poorly controlled?
Review:
Inhaler technique
Non-pharmacological interventions
Smoking status
Conisder referral

SYMPTOMS WORSENING? NO

Review annually if stable

Ensure patient can use device. All MDIs must be used with a spacer

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Endorsed by All Wales Medicines Strategy Group

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