Proprietary Name: Alvesco®
Common Name: Ciclesonide
PDL Category: Antiasthmatic – Steroid Inhalants

Comparable Products
Flovent® HFA
QVAR®
Aerobid®

Preferred Drug List/
Recommended Drug List Status
Preferred
Preferred
Preferred

Summary

Indications and Usage: Maintenance treatment of asthma as prophylactic therapy in adult and adolescent patients 12 years of age and older. It is not indicated for the relief of acute bronchospasm.¹

Mechanism of Action: The precise mechanism of action is unknown. Corticosteroids have been shown to have a wide range of inhibitory activities against multiple cell types and mediators involved in the asthmatic response.¹

Dosage Forms: Inhalation aerosol: 80mcg, 160mcg

Recommended Dosage: For patients ≥12: Previous bronchodilators use, initial, 80mcg oral inhalation twice daily; MAX 160mcg inhalation twice daily. Previous inhaled corticosteroid use, initial, 80mcg oral inhalation twice daily; MAX 320mcg twice daily. Previous oral corticosteroid use, initial, 320mcg oral inhalation twice daily; Max 320mcg twice daily; with gradual reduction of oral corticosteroid after at least 1 week of ciclesonide therapy.¹

Common Adverse Drug Reactions: Headache, nasopharyngitis, sinusitis, pharyngolaryngeal pain, upper respiratory infection, arthralgia, nasal congestion, pain in extremity, back pain.¹

Contraindications: Patients with status asthmaticus or other acute episodes of asthma where intensive measures are required. Patients with a know hypersensitivity to ciclesonide or any or any of the ingredients of Alvesco®.¹

Manufacturer: Sepracor, Inc.

Analysis: Alvesco® is an inhaled corticosteroid indicated for the prophylactic treatment of asthma in patients 12 years of age or older. It is not indicated for the relief of acute bronchospasm. In the studies used to gain FDA approval, Alvesco® was only compared to placebo. Flovent® was compared to Alvesco® in a 6 month randomized open-label trial of 528 patients that had previous responded to inhaled Flovent®. Efficacy was similar with either drug. Preferred alternatives appear on the Preferred Drug List, which have similar clinical efficacy and are more cost effective. Some of the preferred alternatives also have an indication for pediatric use. Therefore, it is recommended that Alvesco® be added to the Preferred Drug List as a non-preferred drug.

IME Recommendation:
- Preferred Drug
- Non-Preferred Drug
- Preferred Drug with Conditions