



Pharmaceutical Services, 2 Franklin Street, Belfast BT2 8DQ
Telephone No. 028 95 36 0333

To: All Community Pharmacists

5th May 2020

Dear colleague

Terbutaline 500 micrograms/dose Dry Powder Inhaler: Ensure Correct Quantity is Prescribed

Terbutaline 500 micrograms dry powder inhaler is a commonly prescribed short-acting beta-agonist (SABA) used in the management of a number of respiratory conditions.

This drug is listed in each GP clinical system as **120 dose** inhaler (as defined by the drug and medicines dictionary (dm+d)).

Routine audit of within BSO payment system has detailed that a number of GP practices are issuing prescriptions for Terbutaline 500 micrograms/dose dry powder inhaler **100 dose**; this product doesn't exist and therefore this is an error.

Practices will be aware that there have been a number of safety documents issued in relation to the over-use of SABA inhalers¹; prescribing Terbutaline 500 micrograms/dose dry powder inhaler incorrectly will mean that dosages that patients are using will be under-estimated. Prescribing these inhalers incorrectly also delays payment processes at BSO for community pharmacists

Action for GP Practice/ General Practice Pharmacist

Search for patients who have been prescribed Terbutaline 500 micrograms/dose dry powder inhaler within the last 6 months and ensure that the product prescribed is for 120 doses. If not, please amend to the correct product as per clinical system.



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Action for community pharmacist

If prescriptions are presented for Terbutaline 500 micrograms/dose dry powder inhaler in quantity other than 120 doses, please return to GP practice for amendment. Please **NOTE** that this inhaler is coded over the number of doses i.e. 120 doses

Reference

1. <https://www.asthma.org.uk/290cc82e/globalassets/campaigns/nrad-summary.pdf>