This update is informational and intended for prescribers, pharmacists and nurses

**Combination Inhaled Corticosteroid and Long- Acting β-Agonists: Advair®, Dulera®, & Symbicort®**

### Place in Therapy
- **Stand-alone inhaled corticosteroids (ICS)** should be used first in the treatment of mild persistent asthma
  - Asmanex®, Flovent®, Pulmicort®, and Qvar® are the preferred ICSs on the Neighborhood Formulary
- If control is unable to be achieved with an ICS alone, use a combination ICS+LABA (long-acting β-agonist) product
  - Combination ICS+LABA products are to be used for the shortest duration to achieve control of asthma symptoms
  - The FDA recommends that once control is achieved, the LABA should be discontinued and the stand-alone ICS should be continued, as appropriate
- ICS+LABA therapy should only be used in long-term therapy for select asthma patients whose symptoms cannot be controlled on a stand-alone ICS
- Combination products Advair®, Dulera® and Symbicort® carry a boxed warning that highlights LABAs increased risk of asthma-related death
- For COPD patients, “GOLD Guidelines” for COPD suggest ICS+LABA products may be helpful for patients with more severe disease (e.g. high risk for exacerbation with or without increased symptoms)

### When an ICS+LABA inhaler is needed - Neighborhood now has three products on its Formulary*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Type of Inhaler</th>
<th>Indication(s)</th>
<th>Dosing Frequency</th>
<th>Pregnancy Category</th>
<th>Neighborhood Formulary</th>
<th>Avg Cost/Month (as of 5/2013)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advair®</strong></td>
<td>DPI &amp; MDI</td>
<td>Asthma &amp; COPD</td>
<td>Twice-daily</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Available as 2nd line, if needed*</td>
<td>$275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(fluticasone/salmeterol)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dulera®</strong></td>
<td>MDI</td>
<td>Asthma</td>
<td>Twice-daily</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Available as 2nd line, if needed*</td>
<td>$224</td>
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<tr>
<td>(mometasone/formoterol)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Symbicort®</strong></td>
<td>MDI</td>
<td>Asthma &amp; COPD</td>
<td>Twice-daily</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Available as 2nd line, if needed*</td>
<td>$228</td>
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<tr>
<td>(budesonide/formoterol)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

DPI: Dry Powder Inhaler; MDI: Metered Dose Inhaler

*ICS+LABA Inhalers Step-Edit Criteria (one of the following):
- Prescribed by a Board Certified Pulmonologist or Allergist or
- Patient is diagnosed with COPD or
- Patient presents with moderate persistent or severe persistent asthmatic symptoms requiring daily use of a short-acting β-agonist or
- Patient currently presents with mild persistent asthma and has failed a recent trial with an appropriate dose and duration of therapy using a stand-alone ICS (i.e. Asmanex®, Flovent®, Pulmicort®, Qvar®) due to inadequate response and/or intolerance

### Please Remember…
- Verify appropriate inhaler technique on a regular basis
- Counsel patients to rinse mouth or brush teeth after each use of ICS and ICS+LABA inhalers to prevent thrush or oral fungal infections
- Spacers may be used with MDIs to improve drug delivery to the airways
  - Spacers are covered for all Neighborhood members without prior authorization

References:

Created 6/2013