

5.20 FLUTICASONE WITH SALMETEROL
Powder for oral inhalation containing fluticasone propionate 500 micrograms with salmeterol (as xinafoate) 50 micrograms per dose, 60 doses
AirFluSal®Forspiro®,
Sandoz Pty Ltd.

1 Purpose of Application

1.1 The minor submission requested the listing of a new brand of an existing drug containing fluticasone propionate and salmeterol (as xinafoate) 500/50 with a different delivery device than the currently listed Seretide Accuhaler 500/50®

2 Requested listing

2.1 The submission requested the following listing similar to the restriction for Seretide Accuhaler 500/50® for Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) with the only change requested in the population criteria for the treatment of asthma, where the new product can only be used in adults.

Name, Restriction, Manner of administration and form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty	Proprietary Manufacturer	Name and
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FLUTICASONE + SALMETEROL Powder for oral inhalation containing 1 fluticasone propionate 500 micrograms with salmeterol (as xinafoate) 50 micrograms per dose, 60 actuations	1	5	\$70.44	AirFluSal® Forspiro®	Sandoz Pty Ltd
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Category / Program	GENERAL – General Schedule (Code GE)
Prescriber type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Dental <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical Practitioners <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nurse practitioners <input type="checkbox"/> Optometrists <input type="checkbox"/> Midwives
Condition:	Asthma
PBS Indication:	Asthma
Restriction Level / Method:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted benefit <input type="checkbox"/> Authority Required - In Writing <input type="checkbox"/> Authority Required - Telephone <input type="checkbox"/> Authority Required – Emergency <input type="checkbox"/> Authority Required - Electronic <input type="checkbox"/> Streamlined
Clinical criteria:	Patient must have previously had frequent episodes of asthma while receiving treatment with oral corticosteroids or optimal doses of inhaled corticosteroids.
Population criteria:	Patient must be 18 years old or older

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Name, Restriction, Manner of administration and form	Max. Qty	No. of Rpts	Dispensed Price for Max. Qty	Proprietary Manufacturer	Name and
FLUTICASONE WITH SALMETEROL Powder for oral inhalation containing 1 fluticasone propionate 500 micrograms with salmeterol (as xinafoate) 50 micrograms per dose, 60 actuations		5	\$70.44	AirFluSal® Forspiro®	Sandoz Pty Ltd

Category / Program	GENERAL – General Schedule (Code GE)
Prescriber type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Dental <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical Practitioners <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nurse practitioners <input type="checkbox"/> Optometrists <input type="checkbox"/> Midwives
Condition:	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
PBS Indication:	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
Restriction Level / Method:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted benefit <input type="checkbox"/> Authority Required - In Writing <input type="checkbox"/> Authority Required - Telephone <input type="checkbox"/> Authority Required – Emergency <input type="checkbox"/> Authority Required - Electronic <input type="checkbox"/> Streamlined
Clinical criteria:	Patient must have a forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV1) less than 50% of predicted normal prior to therapy. AND Patient must have a history of repeated exacerbations with significant symptoms despite regular beta-2 agonist bronchodilator therapy, AND The treatment must be for symptomatic treatment.
Administrative Advice	Patient must not be on a concomitant single agent long-acting beta-2 agonist. This product is not indicated for the initiation of bronchodilator therapy in COPD

3 Background

3.1 The 500/50 microgram fluticasone propionate/salmeterol (as xinafoate) (AirFluSal®Forspiro®) was ARTG listed on 28 October 2016 with the following indication:

“For the regular treatment of asthma where the use of a combination product of fluticasone propionate 500 microgram and salmeterol 50 microgram is appropriate (see PRECAUTIONS).

This may include:

- Patients on effective maintenance doses of long-acting beta2-agonists and high-dose inhaled corticosteroids
- Patients who are symptomatic on current inhaled high-dose corticosteroid therapy. For the symptomatic treatment of patients with severe COPD

(FEV1<50% predicted normal) and a history of repeated exacerbations who have significant symptoms despite regular beta-2 agonist bronchodilator therapy. AirFluSal Forspiro 500/50 powder for inhalation is not indicated for the initiation of bronchodilator therapy in COPD.

Note that Metered Dose Inhaler (MDI) dosage form can be available from other products.”

The product specific precautions in the TGA approved product information (PI) sheet included:

“Prescribers should note that AirFluSal® Forspiro® is not available in lower strength presentations (250 µg/50 µg; 1 00 µg/50 µg). When review of a patient using AirFluSal® Forspiro ® 500 µg/50 µg indicates the need for use of a lower strength combination a change to a different product with a different delivery device will be necessary.

Not for use in children and adolescents younger than 18 years of age.”

- 3.2 The TGA delegate initially approved AirFluSal®Forspiro® 500/50 for registration for use in COPD only, but the registration was amended to include asthma following an appeal from the sponsor.
- 3.3 The PBAC initially approved Seretide®, all strengths, for listing on a cost minimisation basis compared to the individual components at the March 2000 meeting.

4 Comparator

- 4.1 The minor submission nominated Seretide® Accuhaler® 500/50 as the comparator.

5 Consideration of evidence

Sponsor hearing

- 5.1 There was no hearing for this item.

Consumer comments

- 5.2 The PBAC noted and welcomed the input from organisations (3) via the Consumer Comments facility on the PBS website along with 2 other organisations that submitted input directly to the PBAC Secretariat. These organisations were the Thoracic Society of Australia & New Zealand, the National Asthma Council Australia, Asthma Australia, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and GSK.
- 5.3 The advice received wasn't generally supportive in nature, and noted a number of concerns including: that this product had only one high dosage and would be only suitable for a small proportion of asthma patients. The organisational input noted that

the availability of only one dose limits the ability to back titrate the dosage in order to avoid adverse events. Furthermore, there was a Quality use of Medicines concern raised in the advice in regards to the administration of the drug, due to a different inhaler device to that used by the currently listed products. This would require additional training for patients in its use and possibly cause unnecessary confusion. The advice from the organisations was not supportive of the possibility of “a” flagging of AirFluSal® Forspiro® 500 should listing be approved by the PBAC.

Clinical trials

- 5.4 As a minor submission, no clinical trials were presented in the submission. The clinical trials used to support TGA registration were summarised in the TGA approved product information which were the same clinical trials as in the CMI Seretide® Accuhaler® TGA information. The two products were considered to be bioequivalent by the TGA.

Estimated PBS usage & financial implications

- 5.5 The minor submission estimated that there would be no net cost to the PBS. The PBAC noted the Department’s advice that the listing would trigger a 16% statutory price reduction under the *National Health Act 1953*.

6 PBAC Outcome

- 6.1 The PBAC decided not to recommend a Restricted Benefit listing of a new brand of fluticasone with salmeterol, AirFluSal® Forspiro® 500, for the treatment of asthma and COPD due to the inability to back titrate the dose with a similar device.
- 6.2 The PBAC considered that the inability to easily back titrate the dose using a similar device limited the ability of prescribers to avoid possible adverse events, and may mean that some patients would remain on a clinically inappropriate high dose of fluticasone with salmeterol.
- 6.3 The PBAC also noted that the delivery device for AirFluSal® Forspiro® was different to the delivery device for Seretide® 500/50 which would require additional training for the patients in its use which may be confusing to the consumer and may result in lack of compliance.
- 6.4 In this context, the PBAC noted the comments provided by the organisations raising concerns associated with the single high strength of the proposed listing and the complications associated with a new delivery device.
- 6.5 The PBAC concluded that there was no clinical need for listing this new brand of an existing drug.
- 6.6 The PBAC noted that this submission was not eligible for an Independent Review as it was for a new brand of existing drugs.

Outcome:

Rejected

7 Context for Decision

The PBAC helps decide whether and, if so, how medicines should be subsidised in Australia. It considers submissions in this context. A PBAC decision not to recommend listing or not to recommend changing a listing does not represent a final PBAC view about the merits of the medicine. A company can resubmit to the PBAC or seek independent review of the PBAC decision.

8 Sponsor's Comment

The sponsor is disappointed with the PBAC outcome for Airflusal® Forspiro® 500/50. We respectfully disagree with the concerns raised. From a safety and efficacy perspective, these concerns have been thoroughly addressed with the Therapeutic Goods Administration, including advisory statements that lower strength presentations are available for the patient to titrate back to, either as a dry powder formulation or a metered dose inhaler. The sponsor will continue to work with the PBAC to ensure Airflusal® Forspiro® 500/50 will be available to Australian patients for the treatment of Asthma and COPD.