

From the Chief Medical Officer
Prof Sir Michael McBride



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

HSS(MD) 29/2021 (Addendum)

FOR ACTION

Chief Executives HSC Trusts for onward cascade to Medical Directors.
Chief Executives, Public Health Agency/Health and Social Care Board.
GP Medical Advisers, Health & Social Care Board
All General Practitioners and GP Locums (for onward distribution to practice staff).

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Our Ref: HSS(MD) 29/2021

Date: 14 December 2021

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FULL CIRCULATION LIST

Dear Colleague

COVID-19 THERAPEUTIC ALERT – WITHDRAWAL OF THE RECOMMENDATION FOR CONSIDERATION OF INHALED BUDESONIDE AS A TREATMENT OPTION FOR COVID-19

This letter supersedes HSS(MD) 29/2021 issued on 13 April 2021

Action

Clinical teams within primary and secondary care, community pharmacies and dispensing practices are asked to note the revised recommendation that:

Inhaled budesonide should no longer be considered as a treatment for individuals with COVID-19 infection other than within the context of a clinical trial.

Prescribers may wish to refer to the [NICE COVID-19 Rapid Guideline](#) for further information.

Recommendation

Inhaled budesonide should no longer be considered as a treatment for individuals with COVID-19 infection other than within the context of a clinical trial. People already using budesonide for conditions other than COVID-19 should continue treatment if they test positive for COVID-19.

Supporting Evidence

Final results from the [PRINCIPLE](#) and [STOIC](#) trials of inhaled budesonide as a treatment for mild to moderate COVID-19 infection have been published.

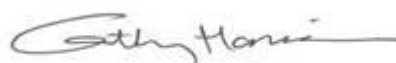
The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has updated its [COVID-19 Rapid Guideline](#) to recommend that inhaled budesonide is only used to treat COVID-19 as part of a clinical trial.

Further enquiries from general practice or community pharmacy should in the first instance be directed to the local Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) office.

Yours sincerely



Prof Sir Michael McBride
Chief Medical Officer



Mrs Cathy Harrison
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

Circulation List

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