

To:

Chief Executives, HSC Trusts  
General Practitioners and GP Locums  
Community Pharmacists  
Federation Chairs, Federation  
Pharmacist Leads.

Tel : 028 9536 3375

Fax : 028 9536 1166

Web Site :

[www.hscboard.hscni.net](http://www.hscboard.hscni.net)

28<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Dear Colleague

**PRICE REDUCTIONS AND UPDATED COST-EFFECTIVE BRANDS  
OF FLUTICASONE/SALMETEROL INHALERS (PMDIS)**

The HSCB would like to make practices aware of the recent price reductions for branded and generically prescribed Fluticasone/Salmeterol metered dose inhalers.

New entrants to the market and increased prescribing of cost-effective products have allowed a 33% reduction in Drug Tariff (DT) prices from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018. This DT price reduction and corresponding lowering of prices for branded products will help generate an estimated £1.7m of savings per annum within Northern Ireland.

The new reimbursement prices for Fluticasone/Salmeterol pMDIs for November 2018 are shown in the table below:

<b>Product Strength</b>	<b>Airflusal®</b>	<b>Combisal®</b>	<b>Sereflo®</b>	<b>Seretide®</b>	<b>Sirdupla®</b>	<b>Drug Tariff (Nov 18)</b>
50/25mcg		<b>£13.50</b>		<b>£18.00</b>		<b>£18.00</b>
125/25mcg	<b>£18.50</b>	<b>£17.59</b>	<b>£16.49</b>	<b>£23.45</b>	<b>£22.45</b>	<b>£23.45</b>
250/25mcg	<b>£29.95</b>	<b>£29.89</b>	<b>£27.99</b>	<b>£39.85</b>	<b>£38.85</b>	<b>£39.85</b>

**Sirdupla no longer being promoted as a cost-effective choice**

Thank you for your support with adopting Sirdupla as a Cost Effective Choice over the last 18 months. This has generated significant savings for the health service (£700,000) and helped contribute to the price

reductions we are now seeing. However, due to recent price changes there are now a range of cost-effective products, therefore it is no longer necessary for the HSCB to promote a specific cost-effective choice (Sirdupla<sup>®</sup>).

The HSCB would ask practices to consider the new pricing structures for Fluticasone/Salmeterol pMDIs and choose a cost-effective inhaler or product for future prescribing.

We will continue to monitor the pricing situation and make relevant recommendations when it is appropriate to do so.

Thank you for your help with this matter and for your on-going commitment to cost-effective prescribing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Brogan', written in a cursive style.

**Joe Brogan**  
**Assistant Director of Integrated Care**  
**Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management**

**COST EFFECTIVE CHOICE DISTRIBUTION LIST**

	To – for Action	Copy		To – for Action	Copy
<b>HSC Trusts</b>			<b>PHA</b>		
CEXs	✓		CEX		✓
Medical Director		✓	Medical Director/Director of Public Health		✓
Directors of Nursing		✓	Director of Nursing/AHPs		✓
Directors of Social Services			PHA Duty Room		
Governance Leads		✓	AD Health Protection		
Directors of Acute Services		✓	AD Service Development/Screening		
Directors of Community/Elderly Services		✓	AD Health Improvement		
Heads of Pharmacy		✓	AD Nursing		✓
Allied Health Professional Leads		✓	AD Allied Health Professionals		✓
Directors of Human Resources			Clinical Director Safety Forum		
<b>NIAS</b>			<b>HSCB</b>		
CEX			CEX		
Medical Director			Director of Integrated Care		✓
<b>RQIA</b>			Director of Social Services		
CEX			Director of Commissioning		✓
Medical Director			Alerts Office		
Director of Nursing			Dir PMSI & Corporate Services		✓
Director for Social Care			<b>Primary Care (through Integrated Care)</b>		
<b>NIMDTA</b>			GPs	✓	
CEX / PG Dean		✓	Community Pharmacists	✓	
<b>QUB</b>			Dentists		
Dean of Medical School		✓	<b>BSO</b>		
Head of Nursing School		✓	Director of Human Resources		
Head of Social Work School			<b>Open University</b>		
Head of Pharmacy School		✓	Head of Nursing Branch		
Head of Dentistry School			<b>DoH</b>		
<b>UU</b>			CMO office		✓
Head of Nursing School		✓	CNO office		✓
Head of Social Work School			CPO office		✓
Head of Pharmacy School		✓	CSSO office		
Head of School of Health Sciences (AHP Lead)			CDO office		
<b>Clinical Education Centre</b>		✓	Safety, Quality & Standards Office		
<b>NIPEC</b>		✓	<b>NI Social Care Council</b>		
<b>GAIN Office</b>		✓	<b>Safeguarding Board NI</b>		
<b>NICPLD</b>		✓	<b>NICE Implementation Facilitator</b>		
<b>NI Medicines Governance Team Leader for Secondary Care</b>		✓	<b>Coroners Service for Northern Ireland</b>		