Long-Acting Muscarinic Antagonist (LAMA) Prescribing for COPD

A Prescribing Decision Aid

Decision to prescribe LAMA inhaler to reduce breathlessness in COPD
Tiotropium (Spiriva) Handihaler is no longer recommended first line
Review patients with repeat Handihaler prescribing according to decision aid

Assess and optimise inhaler technique:
• Ensure patient is able to correctly use current inhaler
• Try to maintain patients on devices that require the same inhalation technique, i.e. dry powder or aerosol devices

Is the patient already using an aerosol inhaler device (e.g. MDI) and can effectively inhale slowly and steadily?

Is the patient already using a dry powder inhaler device and can effectively inhale quickly and deeply?

Is the patient’s renal function impaired GFR < 50mls/min?

No

Yes

Tiotropium is to be used in caution with a GFR<50mls/min. Consider aclidinium as an alternative

Spiriva (Tiotropium) Respimat* inhaler
2.5 micrograms two puffs OD
£23.00

Eklira (Aclidinium) Genuair* inhaler 322 micrograms one dose BD
£28.50

Braltus (Tiotropium) Zonda inhaler 10 microgram one capsule inhaled OD
£25.50

* devices available as LABA/LAMA combination preparations supporting increasing bronchodilation as per COPD guideline

Confirm can the person load the canister, twist the device correctly to prepare the dose and co-ordinate actuation and inhalation?

Confirm can the person open the device and capsule bottle and put the capsule in to load correctly?

Continue and review

Consider whether the alternative options (Eklira or Braltus) are more suitable

* Price (Drug Tariff Feb 2017)