

# Initial Outpatient Evaluation and Ongoing Management of Asthma

Asthma Management Pathway

#### **Diagnosis Tools:**

Classifying Asthma Severity

Classifying Asthma Control

<u>Differential Diagnoses for Asthma</u>

**Modifiable Risk Factors** 

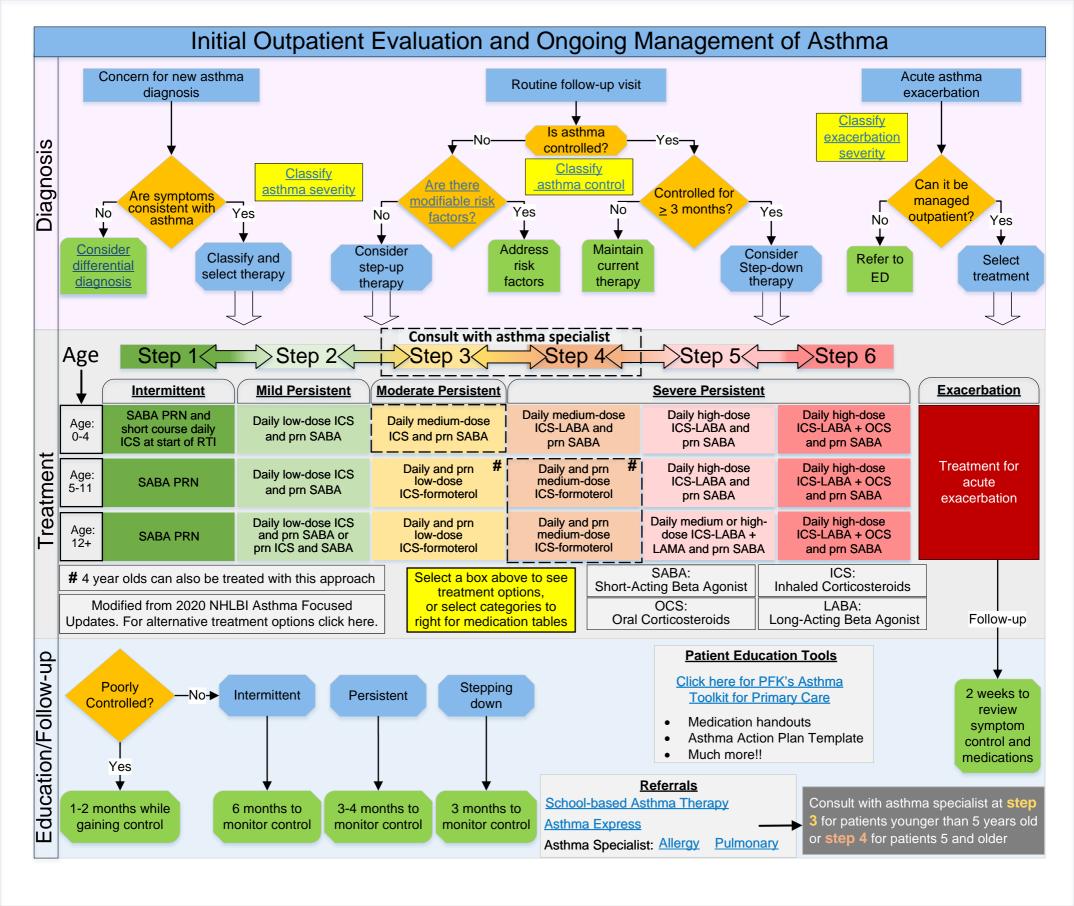
Classifying Exacerbation Severity

#### **Medications Charts:**

Acute Exacerbation Dosing
Short-course Medications
Inhaled Corticosteroids (ICS)
ICS – Long-Acting Beta Agonist
SMART Dosing







## Differential Diagnosis Considerations for Asthma

#### Upper airway disease

Allergic rhinitis and sinusitis

#### **Obstruction involving large airways**

- Foreign body in trachea or bronchus
- Vocal cord dysfunction
- Vascular ring or laryngeal web
- Laryngotracheomalacia, tracheal stenosis, or bronchostenosis
- Enlarged lymph nodes or tumor

#### **Obstruction involving small airways**

- Viral bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis
- Cystic fibrosis
- Bronchopulmonary dysplasia
- Heart disease

#### Other Causes

- Recurrent cough not due to asthma
- Aspiration from swallowing mechanism dysfunction or gastroesophageal reflux

Expert Panel Report 3: Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma. [Bethesda, Md.]: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, 2007. National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

### Modifiable Risk Factors to Assess

#### **Medication self-management barriers**

- Poor controller adherence
- Lack of understanding of inhaler technique
- Poor understanding of asthma action plan
- Unable to access medication at the pharmacy
- Unable to obtain spacer

#### **Asthma triggers**

- Seasonal/environmental allergens
- Tobacco smoke (including vaping, second or third hand exposure)
- Mold
- Cockroaches
- Rodents
- Chemical exposures (e.g. incense)

Consider referral to asthma express

Consider referral to school based asthma therapy (SBAT)

## Classification of Asthma Severity: Clinical Features before Treatment (Modeled after NHLBI Guidelines)

	Intermittent	Mild Persistent	Moderate Persistent	Severe Persistent		
Daytime symptoms	≤ 2 days/week	> 2 days/week	Daily	Throughout the day		
Nighttime symptoms*	≤ 2 times/month	3 – 4 times/month	> 1 time/week	Nightly		
Rescue inhaler use	≤ 2 days/week	> 2 days/week	Daily	Several times a day		
Exercise or Physical Activity Limitation	None	Minor	Some	Extremely		
FEV1	>80%	>80%	60 – 80%	<60%		
FEV1/FVC	>85%	>80% 75 – 80%		<75%		
"Risk"	0 – 1 oral steroids/year	> 2 oral steroids per year				

<sup>\*</sup>Frequency of <u>nighttime symptoms</u> for **0-4 year olds** are classified differently compared to older patients:

Intermittent: 0/month | Mild Persistent: 1-2/month | Moderate Persistent: 3-4/month | Severe Persistent: >1x/week

Assess clinical features in regard to patient/caregiver's recount of the previous 2-4 weeks. Classify based on one or more clinical features in most severe category.

Modified From: Expert Panel Report 3: Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma. [Bethesda, Md.]: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, 2007. National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

## Classification of Asthma Control

Components of Control			Age (year)	Well-Controlled	Not Well-Controlled	Very Poorly Controlled
	Symptoms	Symptoms		≤ 2 days/week*	> 2 days per week#	Throughout the day
			0-4	≤ 1x/month	> 1x/month	> 1x/week
	Nighttime awakenings	5	5 to 11	≤ 1x/month	≥ 2x/month	≥ 2x/week
			<u>&gt;</u> 12	≤ 2x/month	1-3x/week	≥ 4x/week
	Interference with normal ac	ctivity	All	None	Some limitation	Extremely limited
Impairment	Short-acting beta2-agonist using symptom control (not prevention		All	≤ 2 days/week	> 2 days per week	Several times per day
	FEV1 or peak flow		<u>&gt;</u> 5	> 80% predicted/ personal best	60-80% predicted/ personal best	< 60% predicted/ personal best
	FEV1/FVC		<u>&gt;</u> 5	> 80%	75-80%	< 75%
		ACT	<u>≥</u> 4	≥ 20	16-19	≤ 15
	Validated Questionnaires	ATAQ	<u>≥</u> 12	0	1-2	3-4
		ACQ		<u>≤</u> 0.75	<u>≥</u> 1.5	N/A
Risk	Exacerbations requiring oral systemic corticosteroids <sup>¥</sup>		All	0-1/year	2-3/year	> 3/year
Recommended Action for Treatment			All	Maintain current step or consider step-down if well controlled for at least 3 months. Schedule regular follow-up in 1-6 months.	Step-up (1 step) and re- evaluate in 2-6 weeks. <b>Age 0-4:</b> If no clear benefit from stepping-up in 4-6 weeks, consider alternative diagnoses or adjust therapy.	Consider short course of oral systemic steroids, step-up (1-2 steps) and re-evaluate in 2 weeks  Age 0-4: If no clear benefit from stepping-up in 4-6 weeks, consider alternative diagnoses or adjust therapy
* For 5-11 year olds: < 2 days/week but not more than once on each day # For 5-11 year olds: > 2 days/ week or multiple times on < 2 days/week ¥ Consider severity and interval since last exacerbation				-	Before stepping-up therapy, r medications, inhaler techniqu control.	

**Abbreviations:** EIB, Exercised-induced bronchoconstriction; FEV1, forced expiratory volume in 1 second; FVC, forced vital capacity; ACT, asthma control test; ATAQ, asthma therapy assessment questionnaire; ACQ, asthma control questionnaire;

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## CLASSIFYING SEVERITY OF ASTHMA EXACERBATIONS IN THE URGENT OR EMERGENCY CARE SETTING

**Note:** Patients are instructed to use quick-relief medications if symptoms occur or if PEF drops below 80 percent predicted or personal best. If PEF is 50–79 percent, the patient should monitor response to quick-relief medication carefully and consider contacting a clinician. If PEF is below 50 percent, immediate medical care is usually required. In the urgent or emergency care setting, the following parameters describe the severity and likely clinical course of an exacerbation.

	Symptoms and Signs	Initial PEF (or FEV₁)	Clinical Course
Mild	Dyspnea only with activity (assess tachypnea in young children)	PEF ≥70 percent predicted or personal best	<ul> <li>Usually cared for at home</li> <li>Prompt relief with inhaled SABA</li> <li>Possible short course of oral systemic corticosteroids</li> </ul>
Moderate	Dyspnea interferes with or limits usual activity	PEF 40-69 percent predicted or personal best	<ul> <li>Usually requires office or ED visit</li> <li>Relief from frequent inhaled SABA</li> <li>Oral systemic corticosteroids; some symptoms last for 1-2 days after treatment has begun</li> </ul>
Severe	Dyspnea at rest; interferes with conversation	PEF <40 percent predicted or personal best	<ul> <li>Usually requires ED visit and likely hospitalization</li> <li>Partial relief from frequent inhaled SABA</li> <li>Oral systemic corticosteroids; some symptoms last for &gt;3days after treatment is begun</li> <li>Adjunctive therapies are helpful</li> </ul>
Subset: Life- Threatening	Too dyspneic to speak; perspiring	PEF <25 percent predicted or personal best	<ul> <li>Requires ED/hospitalization; possible ICU</li> <li>Minimal or no relief from frequent inhaled SABA</li> <li>Intravenous corticosteroids</li> <li>Adjunctive therapies are helpful</li> </ul>

Key: ED, emergency department; FEV1, forced expiratory volume in 1 second; ICU, intensive care unit; PEF, peak expiratory flow; SABA, short-acting beta2-agonist

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## Asthma Exacerbation Severity and Treatments

Severity Cl	assification	Mild		Mild Moderate		ate	Severe	
Medication	Dosage form	Weight	Dose	Dose Frequency		Dose	Frequency	
	Albuterol MDI	< 15 kg	4 puffs	Reassess in 20 minutes; may				
Albuterol	(90mcg)	<u>&gt;</u> 15 kg	8 puffs	repeat x2				
Albuteror	Albuterol Nebulization (2.5mg/3mL vial)	All	3 mL	Reassess in 20 minutes; may repeat x2				
Ipratropium (use in combo with albuterol)	DuoNeb® (Ipratropium 0.5mg and albuterol 2.5mg per 3mL vial)		ropoutx			3 mL	Reassess in 20 minutes; may repeat x2	Call 911
	*Prednisolone or prednisone	All	2 mg/kg (Max 60 mg)	Daily for 5 days	All	2 mg/kg (Max 60 mg)	Daily for 5 days	Monitoring: Continuous HR, RR
Oral Steroids	*Dexamethasone	All	0.6 mg/kg (Max 16 mg)	Once for 1 dose, then repeat dose in 24 – 48 hrs	All	0.6 mg/kg (Max 16 mg)	Once for 1 dose, then repeat dose in 24 – 48 hrs	and pulse oximetry  Initiate Treatment,
Next	Repeat assessment:  If incomplete response, consider DuoNeb® treatment (Moderate dosing)			If incorrace or action action Patient treat	ctivate 911 sponds well, ron plan and se ent should cou tment schedul 24-48 hours ar	onse refer to ED eview asthma end home ntinue albuterol led every 4 hours nd then use PRN	as outlined for Moderate severity	

<sup>\*</sup>For patients presenting with mild symptoms that have NOT tried albuterol to relieve symptoms, albuterol treatment should be completed first. If a complete response is observed, oral steroids may not be necessary.

Short-Acting Beta-2 Agonists (SABA)										
Mechanism of delivery	Drug	Strength Dose and Frequence		Estimated Cost						
Metered-dose Inhalers (MDI)  Shake before use Needs primed Use with spacer	Ventolin®, Proventil® Albuterol sulfate HFA  Mediglyph Patient	90 mcg	2 puffs as needed Every 4 hours*	\$61						
Nebulizer Solution  Passive inhalation via nebulizer Requires nebulizer device	Education Handouts Albuterol solution	2.5 mg/3 mL (0.083%)	1 vial as needed Every 4 hours	\$16						
	Intermittent Inhale	d Cortico	steroids (ICS)							
Nebulizer Solution  Passive inhalation via nebulizer Requires nebulizer device	Pulmicort® Respules Budesonide	1 mg/2mL solution	1 mg (1 ampule) BID for 7 to 10 days at first sign of respiratory illness	\$150						
Metered-dose Inhalers (MDI)  Shake before use Needs primed Use with spacer	Fluticasone propionate HFA^	110 mcg	2 puffs BID for 7 to 10 days at first sign of respiratory illness	\$225						

\*Albuterol dose can be escalated to 4 – 6 puffs as needed based on symptoms. Instructions for dose increases should be part of the asthma action plan. ^Fluticasone propionate HFA dosing is the expert opinion of Nationwide Children's Hospital and is not described in the NHLBI guidelines. If fluticasone propionate HFA is not covered for privately insured patients, Asmanex® HFA 100 mcg 2 puffs BID, could be considered as an alternative option.

Systemic Corticosteroids										
Drug	Strength	Dose, Frequency and Duration*	Maxiumum daily dose	Clinical Considerations						
Orapred® Prednisolone sodium	Liquid: 15mg/5mL	2 mg/kg <b>Daily</b> for 5 days	60 mg/day							
phosphate	ODT: 10mg, 15mg, 30mg	2 mg/kg <b>Daily</b> for 3 days	00 mg/day	<ul><li>Take with food</li><li>May increase</li></ul>						
Deltasone® Prednisone	Tablets: 1mg, 2.5mg, 5mg, 10mg, 20mg, 50mg	2 mg/kg <b>Daily</b> for 5 days	60 mg/day	<ul><li>appetite</li><li>May cause hyperactivity,</li></ul>						
Decadron® Dexamethasone	Solution (injection for oral use)^: 4 mg/mL, 10 mg/mL	0.6 mg/kg/dose for two doses. Give second dose	16 mg/day	consider dosing in the morning						
	Tablet: 1 mg, 2 mg, 4 mg, 6 mg	24-48 hours after first dose.	,							

<sup>\*</sup>Duration of 5 days is average and typical duration for prednisolone and prednisone. Treatment may be shorter or longer depending on patient. Range 3 – 10 days of treatment. Do not need to taper if using for 10-days or less.

<sup>^</sup>If patient needs an oral preparation for dexamethasone, the injection for oral use will not be available at most community pharmacies. Dexamethasone tablets may be crushed and mixed with a small amount of sweet tasting food or drink, or consider prednisolone liquid.

## Estimated Comparative Daily Dosages for Inhaled Steroids\*

					<u> </u>				
If the medication is <b>BOLDED</b> it is covered without a prior authorization for patients on an Ohio Medicaid plan				Unless otherwise noted, doses represent the steroid component in <u>micrograms</u>					
			Typical	LOW DAILY DOSE		MEDIUM D	AILY DOSE	HIGH DAILY DOSE	
Drug Mediglyph Patient Education Handouts	Delivery Method	Strengths Available (inhalations/device)	Dose Frequency	Child (5-11)	Teen/Adult (12 and older)	Child (5-11)	Teen/Adult (12 and older)	Child (5-11)	Teen/Adult (12 and older)
Inhaled Steroids: Spacer c	ompatible								
Fluticasone propionate <sup>G</sup> (Flovent <sup>®</sup> HFA)	Spacer compatible	44 mcg (120) 110 mcg (120) 220 mcg (120)	BID	88 - 176	88 - 264	>176 - 440	>264 - 660	>440	>660
Mometasone (Asmanex® HFA)	Spacer compatible	50 mcg (120) 100 mcg (120) 200 mcg (120)	BID	100	200	200	400	400	>400
Ciclesonide (Alvesco® HFA)	Spacer compatible	80 mcg (60) 160 mcg (60)	BID	80	160	160	320	>160	640
Inhaled Steroids: Breathe-a	actuated ( <u>not</u> o	compatible with a space	r). Younger ch	ildren may not	have lung stre	ngth and prope	er technique to o	btain dose.	
Beclomethasone (QVAR® Redihaler™)	Breath- actuated	40 mcg (120) 80 mcg (120)	BID	80 - 160	80 - 240	>160 - 320	>240 - 480	>320	>480
Budesonide <sup>G</sup> (Pulmicort Flexhaler™)	Breath- actuated	90 mcg (60) 180 mcg (120)	BID	180 - 360	180 - 540	>360 - 720	>540 - 1,080	>720	>1,080
Fluticasone propionate <sup>G</sup> (Flovent <sup>®</sup> Diskus <sup>®</sup> )	Breath- actuated	50 (60) 100 (60) 250 (60)	BID	100 - 200	100 - 300	>200 - 400	>300 - 500	>400	>500
Fluticasone furoate (Arnuity™ Ellipta™)	Breath- actuated	50 mcg (30) 100 mcg (30) 200 mcg (30)	Daily	50	100	100	200		
Mometasone (Asmanex® Twisthaler®)	Breath- actuated	110 mcg (multiple) 220 mcg (multiple)	Daily	110	220	220	>220 - 440	440	>440
Inhaled Steroids: Nebulize	Solution								
Budesonide <sup>G</sup> (Pulmicort Respules®)	Nebulized	0.25 mg/2 mL 0.5 mg/2 mL 1 mg/2 mL	Daily	0.5 mg		1 mg		2 mg	

### Estimated Comparative Daily Dosages for Inhaled Steroids\*

If the medication is <b>BOLDED</b> it is covered without a prior authorization for patients on an Ohio Medicaid plan				Unless otherwise noted, doses represent the steroid component in <u>micrograms</u>					
			Typical	LOW DAI	LY DOSE	MEDIUM DA	AILY DOSE	HIGH DAILY DOSE	
Drug Mediglyph Patient Education Handouts	Delivery Method	Strengths Available (inhalations/device)	Dose Frequency	Child (5-11)	Teen/Adult (12 and older)	Child (5-11)	Teen/Adult (12 and older)	Child (5-11)	Teen/Adult (12 and older)
Inhaled Steroid and Long-A	cting Beta Ag	gonists: Spacer Compatit	ole						
Budesonide/formoterol <sup>G</sup> (Symbicort <sup>®</sup> HFA)	Spacer compatible	80/4.5 mcg (120) 160/4.5 mcg (120)	BID	160 - 320	320	>320 - 640	640		
Fluticasone/salmeterol <sup>G</sup> (Advair® HFA)	Spacer compatible	45/21 mcg (120) 115/21 mcg (120) 230/21 mcg (120)	BID	90 - 180	180	460	460	920	920
Mometasone/formoterol (Dulera® HFA)	Spacer compatible	50/5 mcg (120) 100/5 mcg (120) 200/5 mcg (120)	BID	100	200	200	400	400	800
Inhaled Steroid and Long-A	cting Beta Ag	gonists: Breathe-actuated	d (not compatit	ole with a spac	er). Younger o	children may no	t have lung str	ength to obta	in dose.
Fluticasone/salmeterol <sup>G</sup> (Advair Diskus <sup>®</sup> )	Breath- actuated	100/50 mcg (60) 250/50 mcg (60) 500/50 mcg (60)	BID	200	200	500	500	1000	1000
Fluticasone furoate/vilanterol <sup>G</sup> (Breo™ Ellipta™)	Breath- actuated	50/25 mcg (30) 100/25 mcg (30) 200/25 mcg (30)	Daily	50	100	100	200		

**G:** Generic is available. When generic and brand are available, Ohio Medicaid prefers brand over generic (except for Flovent®, since brand not in marketplace). **HFA:** Hydrofluoroalkane, a propellant most commonly used in metered dose inhalers.

<sup>\*</sup>When available, these comparative dosages were obtained from the 2007 NAEPP Expert Panel Report 3 (EPR3). If not available in EPR3, the 2023 Global Initiative for Asthma guidelines were referenced.

## Estimated Comparative Daily Dosages for Inhaled Steroids\*

If the medication is <b>BOLDEI</b> patients on an Ohio Medicai		without a prior authorizat	ion for	Unless otherwise noted, doses represent the <u>steroid</u> component in <u>micrograms</u>					
Mediglyph Patient	Delivery	Strengths Available	Typical	LOW <u>DAILY</u> DOSE	MEDIUM <u>DAILY</u> DOSE	HIGH DAILY DOSE			
Drug Education Handouts	Method	(inhalations/device)	Dose Frequency	0-4 year olds	0-4 year olds	0-4 year olds			
Inhaled Steroids: Spacer co	mpatible								
Fluticasone propionate <sup>G</sup> (Flovent <sup>®</sup> HFA)			88 - 176	>176 - 440	>440				
Inhaled Steroids: Nebulizer Solution									
Budesonide <sup>G</sup> (Pulmicort Respules <sup>®</sup> )	Nebulized	0.25 mg/2 mL 0.5 mg/2 mL 1 mg/2 mL	Daily	0.5 mg	1 mg	2 mg			
Inhaled Steroid and Long-A	cting Beta Ago	nists: Spacer Compatible							
Budesonide/formoterol <sup>G</sup> (Symbicort <sup>®</sup> HFA)	Spacer compatible	80/4.5 mcg (120) 160/4.5 mcg (120)	BID	160 - 320	>320 - 640				
Fluticasone/salmeterol <sup>G</sup> (Advair® HFA)	Spacer compatible	45/21 mcg (120) 115/21 mcg (120) 230/21 mcg (120)	BID	90 - 180	460	920			
Mometasone/formoterol (Dulera® HFA)	Spacer compatible	50/5 mcg (120) 100/5 mcg (120) 200/5 mcg (120)	BID	100	200	400			

**G:** Generic is available. When generic and brand are available, Ohio Medicaid prefers brand over generic (except for Flovent®, since brand not in marketplace). **HFA:** Hydrofluoroalkane, a propellant most commonly used in metered dose inhalers.

<sup>\*</sup>When available, these comparative dosages were obtained from the 2007 NAEPP Expert Panel Report 3 (EPR3). If not available in EPR3, the 2023 Global Initiative for Asthma guidelines were referenced.

<sup>^</sup>For patients 0-4 years old there are only equivalent dose recommendations in guidelines for fluticasone propionate HFA and nebulized budesonide. For other medications in this table, the suggested reference doses provided are the expert opinion of clinicians at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

## Single Maintenance and Reliever Therapy (SMART)

ICS + Long-Acting Beta Agonist (LABA)  BOLD = Preferred, no PA required for Medicaid patients									
Inhaler Mechanism	Drug	Age (years)	Low Dose Inhaler Strength	Medium Dose Inhaler Strength	Dose and Frequency	Max Dose			
Metered-dose Inhalers (MDI)	Symbicort® HFA	vmbicort® HFA 4-11	100 45	1 to 2 puffs BID and	8 puffs				
Aerosolized inhalation that	Budesonide / formoterol	≥ 12	80-4.5 mcg	160-4.5 mcg	1 puff PRN	12 puffs			
spushed to activate     Shake before use	Dulera® HFA	4-11	50 5 mag	100 E mag	1 to 2 puffs BID and	8 puffs			
Needs primed     Use with spacer	Mometasone / formoterol	≥ 12	50-5 mcg	100-5 mcg	1 puff PRN	12 puffs			

Example Prescription – Low Dose ICS + LABA										
Age (years)	Drug	Strength	Directions							
4-11	Symbicort® HFA Budesonide / formoterol	80-4.5 mcg	Inhale 2 puffs by mouth with spacer twice daily. May also inhale 1 puff as needed for symptoms (Max: 8 total puffs per day). Dispense 2 inhalers for 30-day supply.							
≥ 12	Symbicort® HFA Budesonide / formoterol	80-4.5 mcg	Inhale 2 puffs by mouth with spacer twice daily. May also inhale 1 puff as needed for symptoms (Max: 12 total puffs per day). Dispense 2 inhalers for 30 day supply.							

Expert Panel Working Group of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) administered and coordinated National Asthma Education and Prevention Program Coordinating Committee (NAEPPCC), Cloutier MM, et al. 2020 Focused Updates to the Asthma Management Guidelines: A Report from the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program Coordinating Committee Expert Panel Working Group. J Allergy Clin Immunol. 2020 Dec;146(6):1217-1270.