

Budesonide/Formoterol Oral Inhaler-Asthma (SYMBICORT, BREYNA, Generics) Criteria for Use July 2025

VA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services and National Formulary Committee

The following recommendations are based on medical evidence, clinician input, and expert opinion. The content of the document is dynamic and will be revised as new information becomes available. The purpose of this document is to assist practitioners in clinical decision-making, to standardize and improve the quality of patient care, and to promote cost-effective drug prescribing. THE CLINICIAN SHOULD USE THIS GUIDANCE AND INTERPRET IT IN THE CLINICAL CONTEXT OF THE INDIVIDUAL PATIENT. INDIVIDUAL CASES THAT ARE EXCEPTIONS TO THE EXCLUSION AND INCLUSION CRITERIA SHOULD BE ADJUDICATED AT THE LOCAL FACILITY ACCORDING TO THE POLICY AND PROCEDURES OF ITS P&T COMMITTEE AND PHARMACY SERVICES.

The Product Information should be consulted for detailed prescribing information.

See the VA National Formulary Committee Monograph on this drug at the [PBM INTRAnet](#) site for further information.

Exclusion Criteria

If the answer to ANY item below is met, then the patient should NOT receive budesonide/formoterol oral inhaler.

- Diagnosis of COPD^{^1} without a concomitant diagnosis of asthma.
- Inability to properly use a metered dose inhaler (MDI) (e.g., issues with dexterity)

^{^1} COPD=chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Inclusion Criteria

One of the following criteria must be met.

- Diagnosis of Asthma
- Diagnosis of COPD with concomitant Asthma^{^2}

^{^2} Asthma - chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) overlap syndrome (ACOS)

Additional Inclusion Criteria

One of the following criteria must be met.

- Preference is for use of MART ^{^3} with budesonide/formoterol inhaler. ^{^4}
- Patient is unable to tolerate or use a DPI. ^{^5}

^{^3} MART=Maintenance and reliever therapy

^{^4} For patients whose symptoms are well controlled with formulary ICS/LABA inhaler (fluticasone/salmeterol [Wixela Inhub]) as maintenance plus SABA as reliever therapy, a switch to maintenance and reliever therapy (MART) with budesonide/formoterol is generally not encouraged. However, if a switch is made (e.g., if step-down in therapy is indicated and preference is for Gina Track 1, steps 1-2), ensure patients are educated on the use of a single metered dose inhaler (MDI) for MART and discontinue the SABA inhaler to encourage use of budesonide/formoterol for relief of symptoms. If the patient prefers continued use of a SABA inhaler for relief, continuation of formulary ICS/LABA is recommended.

^{^5} DPI=dry powder inhaler