



28 August 2026

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Formoterol fumarate dihydrate (Atimos Modulite®) 12micrograms/dose inhaler

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: noted product is being discontinued

Issue

1. Formoterol fumarate dihydrate (Atimos Modulite®) 12micrograms/dose inhaler is being discontinued at the end of November 2026.
2. NICE-recommended combination inhalers remain available and can support increased demand.
3. Formoterol fumarate dihydrate (Oxis® 12 Turbohaler and Formoterol Easyhaler®) remain available and can support increased demand.
4. Salmeterol (Soltel®) 25micrograms/dose inhaler CFC free remains available can support increased demand (see note below).
5. Salmeterol (Serevent®) 25micrograms/dose inhaler CFC free remains available but cannot support increased demand.

Advice and Actions

6. Prescribers should:
 - not initiate new patients on Atimos Modulite® 12micrograms/dose inhaler;
 - review all patients currently prescribed Atimos Modulite® 12 micrograms/dose inhaler and switch to an appropriate alternative in line with current [BTS/NICE/SIGN guidance](#) recommending combination inhalers that deliver Anti-Inflammatory Reliever (AIR) and Maintenance and Reliever Therapy (MART).
 - for patients prescribed Atimos Modulite® for asthma, consider if they can be rationalised to a combination inhaler e.g. one containing a long-acting beta-2 agonist (LABA) and an inhaled corticosteroid (ICS);
 - for patients prescribed Atimos Modulite® for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), review to determine suitability for switching to a combination inhaler: e.g.
 - LABA and a long-acting muscarinic agonist (LAMA) or
 - LABA and LAMA and ICS.
7. Where the above is not suitable, consider prescribing formoterol 12micrograms/dose dry powder inhaler (Formoterol Easyhaler® or Oxis® 12 Turbohaler). Note that these inhalers cannot be used with a spacer device.
8. Where the above is not suitable and a dry powder inhaler is not appropriate, consider switching to salmeterol which is available as a pressurised metered dose inhaler (pMDI) (see Additional Information).

*<https://www.nss.nhs.scot/media/1842/medicine-supply-alert-notices-definitions-of-classifications-21-october-2019.pdf>

9. Following any switch, prescribers should ensure the patient is:
- not intolerant to any of the excipients;
 - counselled on the appropriate dose regimen;
 - provided with appropriate advice and training on the correct use of the alternative device and that the technique is reviewed as appropriate;
 - monitored for asthma and COPD symptoms and counselled to promptly report any deterioration in symptom control, so that therapy is adjusted as required.
10. If the above options are not considered appropriate, refer to local/national guidance for selection of another management option or seek Advice and Guidance from specialists.

Additional Information

Clinical Information

11. Atimos Modulite® is the only pMDI containing formoterol licensed for the long-term symptomatic treatment of persistent, moderate-to-severe asthma in patients requiring regular bronchodilator therapy in combination with long-term anti-inflammatory therapy. It is also indicated for the relief of broncho-obstructive symptoms in patients with COPD.
12. Formoterol has a more rapid onset of action than salmeterol.
13. **Please note:** Soltel® inhalers do not have dose counters. They contain soya lecithin and are therefore, contraindicated in those with peanut or soya allergies. Salmeterol interacts with potent CYP3A4 inhibitors (e.g. ketoconazole, ritonavir), which should be considered when prescribing.

Links to further information

- [NICE Guidance – Asthma: diagnosis, monitoring and chronic asthma management \(BTS, NICE, SIGN\)](#)
- [NICE Guidance – Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in over 16s: diagnosis and management](#)
- [SmPC – Atimos Modulite® 12micrograms/dose inhaler](#)
- [SmPC – Oxis® 12 Turbohaler](#)
- [SmPC – Formoterol Easyhaler®](#)
- [SmPC – Soltel® 25micrograms/dose inhaler CFC free](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

14. The UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in conjunction with the Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) have launched an online Medicines Supply Tool, which provides up to date information about medicine supply issues. To access the online Medicines Supply Tool you need to register with the [SPS website](#). Registration for access to the website is available to UK healthcare professionals and organisations providing NHS healthcare. The tool is located under the Tools tab and then click on the Medicines Supply option.

15. Prescribers, pharmacy professionals, and pharmacy procurement leads in Scotland are encouraged to register with the SPS website and use its Medicine Supply Tool to stay up to date concerning medicines supply disruptions. Please be aware that while medicines supply issues will appear on the SPS website, some of the recommended actions may not always be appropriate / relevant within the Scottish context.

Enquiries

16. Enquiries from Health Boards or healthcare professionals should be directed in the first instance to PharmacyTeam@gov.scot (primary care) or NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot (secondary care).