

Rapid Rx



*Wishing
everyone the
happiest of
HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!*



*I know you want 'em...
Prizes!!!*

Remember if you ask a question that ends up in Rapid Rx, I owe you a coffee (similar beverages may be substituted) or chocolate – your choice!

Alvesco[®] (ciclesonide) – A New Inhaled Corticosteroid

“What is Alvesco[®]?”

A new inhaled corticosteroid as an alternative to Flovent[®] or Pulmicort[®].

PROs - A long duration of action so can be dosed once daily. The reps will tell you that since > 50% of a dose is delivered to the lung + < 1% is absorbed systemically, in theory, this limits local + systemic adverse effects. Also, since it's a solution, patients don't have to shake it first.

CONS - It's a little pricey – approx. \$50 for 100 mcg MDI, \$85 for 200 mcg (the recommended starting dose is 400 mcg daily), not covered by ODB, and we don't have any long-term safety info yet.

MY BOTTOM LINE -

Since compliance-wise, the once daily dosing doesn't offer a huge advantage vs. BID, I wouldn't get too excited about this one.

Getting Connected

This one is not new for many of you but one of my faves is the **online Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary**. It's got LU codes + is updated frequently (unlike the yucky grey book). If you're really keen, I can teach you how to use it to figure out drug costs...don't be shy now...

You can find it in OSCAR under Resources by searching “formulary” or anywhere in the world by googling “Ontario formulary.” To make life even simpler, add it to your **del.icio.us** page!

My Schedule is Changing (again...☺)

To optimize my availability, for the month of January, I will be **onsite at both clinics everyday**. Let me know if you find it easier to “find me” this way.

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