

Estimated comparative daily doses for inhaled glucocorticoids in adolescents ≥12 years and adults

Drug	Low dose (total daily dose)	Medium dose (total daily dose)	High dose (total daily dose)*
Betamethasone HFA¹ (Over-the-counter product available in United States) Administer as 2 divided doses	80 to 160 mcg	>160 to 320 mcg	>320 to 640 mcg
40 mcg per actuation	2 or 4 inhalations	1	1
80 mcg per actuation	2 inhalations	4 inhalations	6 or 8 inhalations
Betamethasone HFA² (Over-the-counter product available in Canada, Europe, and elsewhere) Administer as 2 divided doses	100 to 200 mcg	>200 to 400 mcg	>400 to 800 mcg
50 mcg per actuation	2 to 4 inhalations	1	1
100 mcg per actuation	2 inhalations	4 inhalations	6 or 8 inhalations
Budesonide DPI³ (Pulmicort Respules product available in United States) Administer as 2 divided doses	180 to 360 mcg	>360 to 720 mcg	>720 to 1440 mcg
90 mcg per actuation	2 or 4 inhalations	1	1
180 mcg per actuation	2 inhalations	4 inhalations	6 or 8 inhalations
Budesonide DPI⁴ (Pulmicort Turbuhaler or Turbhaler product available in Canada, Europe, and elsewhere)	200 to 400 mcg	>400 to 800 mcg	>800 to 2400 mcg
Administer low doses (ie, ≤400 mcg/day) once daily; administer higher doses (ie, >400 mcg/day) as 2 to 4 divided doses			
100 mcg per actuation	2 to 4 inhalations	1	1
200 mcg per actuation	1 to 2 inhalations	3 to 4 inhalations	1
400 mcg per actuation	1 inhalation	2 inhalations	3 to 6 inhalations
Ciclesonide HFA⁵ (Aleserv product available in United States, Europe, and elsewhere) United States: Administer as 2 divided doses	160 mcg	320 mcg	640 mcg
Admin: Europe and elsewhere: Administer lower doses (ie, 160 to 320 mcg/day) once daily; administer higher doses (ie, >320 mcg/day) as 2 divided doses			
80 mcg per actuation	2 inhalations	4 inhalations	1
160 mcg per actuation	1	2 inhalations	4 inhalations
Ciclesonide HFA⁶ (Aleserv product available in Canada)	100 to 200 mcg	>200 to 400 mcg	>400 to 800 mcg
Administer lower doses (eg, 100 to 400 mcg) once daily; administer 800 mcg dose as 2 divided doses			
100 mcg per actuation	1 to 2 inhalations	3 to 4 inhalations	1
200 mcg per actuation	1 inhalation	2 inhalations	3 to 4 inhalations
Fluticasone propionate HFA⁷ (Flovent HFA product available in United States) Administer as 2 divided doses	176 to 220 mcg	>220 to 440 mcg	>440 to 1760 mcg
44 mcg per actuation	4 inhalations	1	1
110 mcg per actuation	2 inhalations	4 inhalations	1
220 mcg per actuation	1	2 inhalations	4 to 8 inhalations
Fluticasone propionate HFA⁸ (Flovent HFA product available in Canada; Flutotide Evohaler product available in Europe and elsewhere)	100 to 250 mcg	>250 to 500 mcg	>500 to 2000 mcg
Administer as 2 divided doses			
50 mcg per actuation	2 to 4 inhalations	1	1
100 mcg per actuation	2 inhalations	4 inhalations	1
250 mcg per actuation	1	2 inhalations	4 to 8 inhalations
500 mcg per actuation (strength not available in United States)	1		2 or 4 inhalations
Fluticasone propionate DPI⁹ (Flovent Diskus product available in United States and Canada; Flutotide Accuhaler product available in Europe and elsewhere)	100 to 250 mcg	>250 to 500 mcg	>500 to 2000 mcg
Administer as 2 divided doses			
50 mcg per actuation	2 to 4 inhalations	1	1
100 mcg per actuation	2 inhalations	4 inhalations	1
250 mcg per actuation	1	2 inhalations	4 to 8 inhalations
500 mcg per actuation (strength not available in United States)	1		2 or 4 inhalations
Fluticasone propionate DPI¹⁰ (Armoair Diskhaler product available in United States; Aremony Respclick product available in Canada)	110 mcg	226 mcg	444 mcg
Administer as 2 divided doses			
55 mcg per actuation	2 inhalations	1	1
113 mcg per actuation	1	2 inhalations	1
223 mcg per actuation	1	1	2 inhalations
Fluticasone furoate DPI¹¹ (Amith Flipta product available in United States, Canada, Australia, and elsewhere, but not available in Europe and elsewhere)	50 mcg (by use of pediatric DPI, which is off-label in adolescents and adults)	100 mcg	200 mcg
Admin: Once daily			
NOTE: Inhaled fluticasone furoate has a greater anti-inflammatory potency per microgram than fluticasone propionate inhalers. Thus, fluticasone furoate is administered at a lower daily dose and used only once daily.			
50 mcg per actuation	1 inhalation	1	1
100 mcg per actuation	1	1 inhalation	2 inhalations
200 mcg per actuation	1	1	1 inhalation
Mometasone DPI¹² (Amexair Twisterhaler product available in United States)	220 mcg	>220 to 440 mcg	>440 to 880 mcg
May administer lower doses (ie, 220 to 440 mcg/day) once daily; administer 880 mcg dose as 2 divided doses			
110 mcg per actuation	2 inhalations	1	1
220 mcg per actuation	1 inhalation	2 inhalations	4 inhalations
Mometasone HFA¹³ (Asmanex HFA product available in United States) Administer as 2 divided doses	200 mcg	>200 to 400 mcg	>400 to 800 mcg
100 mcg per actuation	2 inhalations	4 inhalations	1
200 mcg per actuation	1	2 inhalations	4 inhalations
Mometasone DPI¹⁴ (Asmanex Twisterhaler product available in Canada, Europe, and elsewhere)	200 mcg	>200 to 400 mcg	>400 to 800 mcg
May administer lower doses (ie, 200 to 400 mcg/day) once daily; administer 800 mcg dose as 2 divided doses			
200 mcg per actuation	1 inhalation	2 inhalations	1
400 mcg per actuation	1	1 inhalation	2 inhalations

* The most important determinant of appropriate dosing is the clinician's judgment of the patient's response to therapy. The clinician must monitor the patient's response on several clinical parameters and adjust the dose accordingly. The stepwise approach to therapy emphasizes that once control of asthma is achieved, the dose of medication should be carefully titrated to the minimum dose required to maintain control, thus reducing the potential for adverse effects.

† Separate alternate regimens for low, medium, and high dose inhaled glucocorticoid regimens are based on daily doses recommended by Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA), National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP), and/or product labeling^[1-5]. This is not a table of equivalence.

‡ Depending on the specific product, total daily doses are administered once or divided and given twice daily. Refer to local product information or a clinical drug reference (eg, Lex comp).

§ Some doses are outside the approved product information recommendation.

DPI: dry powder inhaler; HFA: hydrofluorocarbon propellant metered dose inhaler.

¹ Evidence for additional improvement with doses increases >1000 mcg/day is limited.

² Select alternate preparation with higher mcg/actuation to improve convenience.

Δ Products shaded in light gray color are not available in the United States but are available widely elsewhere.

◊ Select preparation with fewer mcg/actuation.

Data from:

1. Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA): Global Strategy for Asthma Management and Prevention; 2021. Available at: www.eaaia.org/.

2. National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Expert Panel Report 3 (EPR-3): Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma; 2007. NIH Publication 08-4051 available at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/health-pro/guidelines/current/asthma-guidelines/full-report-and-pro>.

3. US Food & Drug Administration (FDA)-approved products. Available at: <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda/approvalpackage.jsp?ID=105700>.

4. European Medicines Agency (EMA) Summary of product characteristics. Available online at www.ema.europa.eu/ema/medicines.