Professional Notice

To: Pharmacy Practitioners
From: Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists
Date: May 10, 2022
Re: Pharmacist Prescribing Inhaled Budesonide for Mild SARS-CoV-2 Respiratory Symptoms

Pharmacists may now prescribe inhaled budesonide for the treatment of mild SARS-CoV-2 respiratory symptoms in accordance with the Standards of Practice: Prescribing Drugs, Appendix G – Prescribing for a Diagnosis Supported by a Protocol.

Nova Scotia Health is looking to improve access to inhaled budesonide across the province given ongoing high rates of SARS-CoV-2 infection. PANS has been working closely with government and will be communicating information regarding billing and other resources shortly.

What does this new prescribing authority enable?

- This authority enables pharmacists to prescribe inhaled budesonide for the treatment of mild SARS-CoV-2 respiratory symptoms when using the Nova Scotia Health Inhaled Budesonide Prescribing Protocol.

Can another protocol be used when prescribing inhaled budesonide for the treatment of mild SARS-CoV-2 respiratory symptoms?

- Pharmacists can only prescribe inhaled budesonide for the treatment of SARS-CoV-2 when they do so in accordance with the Nova Scotia Health Inhaled Budesonide Prescribing Protocol. Please note:
  - Inhaled budesonide may only be prescribed by pharmacists for the treatment of SARS-CoV-2 (no other indications)
  - The dose for the treatment of SARS-CoV-2 is 800 mcg twice daily
  - Therapeutic substitutions for nebulisers, other inhaled corticosteroids, or oral/IV corticosteroids are not permitted within the protocol

What if I have questions about the use of inhaled budesonide in the treatment of mild SARS-CoV-2 respiratory symptoms?

- Pharmacists are welcome to call the COVID-19 Non-Severe Therapy Pharmacist Consult Service at 1-833-714-2784 between 9 am and 5 pm, 7 days a week if they have COVID-19 medication or drug interaction questions, including questions about the inhaled budesonide prescribing protocol.

- Pharmacists can also refer to the following resources for more information:
  - PANS Pharmacist Prescribing for Inhaled Budesonide Video
  - NS Health COVID-19 Medication Recommendations
  - NS Health Non-Severe COVID-19 Treatment Guidance
  - NS Health Medication Summary: Inhaled Budesonide
How do I respond to questions from my patients about Paxlovid™ (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir)?

- Please see the Paxlovid™ (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) Information and Resources notice for answers to frequently asked questions.