

Suggested Sequence for Use of Multiple Inhaled Medications

If Using *only* Long-acting Medications

FIRST

Long-acting β -agonist (alone or combined)

Brovana (arformoterol)
Foradil (formoterol), Performist (formoterol)
Oxis, Oxese (formoterol)
Serevent (salmeterol)
Advair (Serevent & Flovent)
Duova (formoterol, tiotropium bromide)
Seretide (salmeterol, fluticasone)
Symbicort (formoterol, budesonide)

SECOND

Long-acting Anticholinergic

Spiriva (tiotropium bromide)
Tiova (tiotropium bromide)
(Also, see Note 4.)

LAST

Steroid

Aerobid, Aerospan HFA (flunisolide)
Asmanex (mometasone)
Azmacort (triamcinolone)
Dexamethasone
Flovent, -HFA, -Diskus (fluticasone)
Pulmicort (budesonide)
QVAR, Vanceril (beclomethasone)

NOTES

- (1.) Take short-acting drugs at least 2 hours before long-acting drugs in the same class to avoid interfering with the long-acting drug's action.
- (2.) If albuterol is used on a regular scheduled basis, always take it after the long-acting β -agonist, and never less than 2 hours before it.
- (3.) If you must use albuterol on a "rescue" basis, then wait 2 hours before taking a long-acting β -agonist.
- (4.) If Atrovent is used in addition to Spiriva/Tiova, always take it after the Spiriva/Tiova, and never less than 2 hours before it.

If Using *both* Short- and Long-acting Medications

FIRST (See Note 3.)

Long-acting β -agonist (alone or combined)

Brovana (arformoterol)
Foradil (formoterol), Performist (formoterol)
Oxis, Oxese (formoterol)
Serevent (salmeterol)
Advair (Serevent & Flovent)
Duova (formoterol, tiotropium bromide)
Seretide (salmeterol, fluticasone)
Symbicort (formoterol, budesonide)

SECOND

Long-acting Anticholinergic

Spiriva (tiotropium bromide)
Tiova (tiotropium bromide)
(Also, see Note 4.)

THIRD

Steroid

Aerobid, Aerospan HFA (flunisolide)
Asmanex (mometasone)
Azmacort (triamcinolone)
Dexamethasone
Flovent, -HFA, -Diskus (fluticasone)
Pulmicort (budesonide)
QVAR, Vanceril (beclomethasone)

LAST

Short-acting β -agonist (alone or combined)

Albuterol (salbutamol in UK)
Alupent (metaproterenol)
Berotec (Canada) (feneterol)
Bricanyl (terbutaline)
Bronkosol (isoetharine)
Maxair (pirbuterol)
Medihaler-Iso, Isuprel (isoproterenol)
ProAir, -HFA (albuterol)
Proventil, -HFA (albuterol)
Ventolin, Airomir (Canada) (albuterol)
Xopenex, -HFA (levalbuterol)
Combivent (Atrovent, albuterol) (See Note 4.)

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