

**May 2015**

**Prescribing Information**

(Please refer to the full Summary of Product Characteristics before prescribing)

**Seretide® Accuhaler® and Evohaler® (salmeterol xinafoate and fluticasone propionate)**

**Uses:** Asthma: Regular treatment of asthma, where a long-acting  $\beta_2$  agonist and inhaled corticosteroid is appropriate, i.e. patients uncontrolled on inhaled corticosteroids and 'as needed' short-acting inhaled bronchodilator or patients controlled on inhaled corticosteroid and long-acting  $\beta_2$  agonist. Lowest strength Seretide (salmeterol 25mcg/fluticasone propionate 50 mcg and salmeterol 50mcg/fluticasone propionate 100 mcg) not appropriate in severe asthma. COPD: Symptomatic treatment of patients with COPD with a FEV1 <60% predicted normal (pre-bronchodilator) and a history of repeated exacerbations, who have significant symptoms despite regular bronchodilator therapy. **Dosage and administration:** Inhalation only. Asthma: *Adults and adolescents 12 years and over:* Seretide Accuhaler - one inhalation b.d. of: Seretide 100 (salmeterol 50 mcg/fluticasone propionate 100 mcg) or Seretide 250 (salmeterol 50 mcg/fluticasone propionate 250 mcg) or Seretide 500 (salmeterol 50 mcg/fluticasone propionate 500 mcg), Seretide Evohaler - two puffs b.d. of: Seretide 50 (salmeterol 25 mcg/fluticasone propionate 50 mcg) or Seretide 125 (salmeterol 25 mcg/fluticasone propionate 125mcg) or Seretide 250 (salmeterol 25 mcg/fluticasone propionate 250 mcg). *Children 4-11 years:* Seretide 50 Evohaler (salmeterol 25 mcg/fluticasone propionate 50 mcg): two puffs b.d. Spacer recommended for co-ordination. Seretide 100 Accuhaler (salmeterol 50 mcg/fluticasone propionate 100 mcg) one inhalation b.d. Regularly review patients and reduce dose to lowest that maintains effective symptom control. Where the control of symptoms is maintained with the lowest strength of the combination, patients may be prescribed an inhaled corticosteroid alone, or if a long-acting  $\beta_2$  agonist is required, Seretide may be given once daily. If rapid control of asthma in adults or adolescents with moderate persistent asthma (defined as patients with daily symptoms, daily rescue use and moderate to severe airflow limitation) is essential, an initial dose of two inhalations b.d. of Seretide 50 Evohaler (salmeterol 25 mcg/fluticasone

propionate 50 mcg) or one inhalation b.d. of Seretide 100 Accuhaler (salmeterol 50 mcg/fluticasone propionate 100 mcg) may be considered on a short-term basis. Once control of asthma is attained treatment should be regularly reviewed and stepped down. Doubling the dose of all strengths of Seretide may be considered when adult patients require additional short-term (up to 14 days) inhaled corticosteroid therapy but this causes a small increase in  $\beta$ -agonist-related adverse events. COPD: one inhalation b.d. of Seretide 500 Accuhaler (salmeterol 50mcg/fluticasone propionate 500 mcg). **Contraindications:** Hypersensitivity to the active ingredients or to any of the excipients. **Precautions:** Pulmonary tuberculosis, fungal, viral or other infections of the airway, severe cardiovascular disorders, heart rhythm abnormalities, diabetes mellitus, hypokalaemia and thyrotoxicosis. Increased reporting of pneumonia and bronchitis in patients with COPD receiving Seretide compared with placebo. If a patient with severe COPD has experienced pneumonia, treatment with Seretide should be re-evaluated. Paradoxical bronchospasm post dose. *Severe unstable asthma:* Warn patients to seek medical advice if short-acting inhaled bronchodilator use increases. Consider increased inhaled/additional corticosteroid therapy. *Acute symptoms:* Not for acute symptoms. Use short-acting inhaled bronchodilator. *Systemic effects:* Systemic effects of inhaled corticosteroids may occur, particularly at high doses for prolonged periods, but much less likely than with oral corticosteroids. May include Cushing's syndrome, cushingoid features, adrenal suppression, adrenal crisis, growth retardation in children and adolescents, decrease in bone mineral density, cataract, glaucoma and, more rarely, a range of psychological or behavioural effects including psychomotor hyperactivity, sleep disorders, anxiety, depression or aggression (particularly in children). Monitor height of children on prolonged inhaled corticosteroid therapy. Tremor, palpitations and headache, have been reported with  $\beta_2$  agonist treatment. In asthma, therapy should be down titrated under physician supervision to lowest effective dose and treatment should not be abruptly stopped due to risk of exacerbation. Serious asthma-related adverse events and exacerbations may occur during treatment with Seretide. Patients should not be initiated on Seretide during an exacerbation, or if they have significantly worsening or acutely deteriorating asthma. Data from a large asthma trial suggested patients of black African or Afro-Caribbean ancestry were at increased risk of serious

respiratory-related events or deaths when using salmeterol. All patients should continue treatment but seek medical advice if asthma symptoms remain uncontrolled or worsen when initiated on Seretide or using Seretide. In COPD cessation of therapy may also be associated with decompensation and should be supervised by a physician. *Transfer from oral steroids*: Special care needed. Consider appropriate steroid therapy in stressful situations. **Drug interactions**: Avoid beta-blockers. Avoid concomitant administration of ketoconazole or other potent (e.g. itraconazole, telithromycin, ritonavir) and moderate (erythromycin) CYP3A4 inhibitors unless benefits outweigh potential risk.  $\beta_2$  adrenergic blockers may weaken or antagonise the effect of salmeterol. Potentially serious hypokalaemia may result from  $\beta_2$  agonist therapy. Particular caution is advised in acute severe asthma as this effect may be potentiated by concomitant treatment with xanthine derivatives, steroids and diuretics. **Pregnancy and lactation**: Experience limited. Balance risks against benefits. **Side effects**: *Very Common*: headache, nasopharyngitis. *Common*: candidiasis of the mouth and throat, hoarseness/dysphonia, throat irritation, pneumonia, bronchitis, hypokalaemia, sinusitis, contusions, traumatic fractures, arthralgia, myalgia, muscle cramps. *Uncommon*: respiratory symptoms (dyspnoea), anxiety, tremor, palpitations, tachycardia, angina pectoris, atrial fibrillation, cutaneous hypersensitivity reactions, hyperglycaemia, sleep disorders, cataract. *Rare*: angioedema, respiratory symptoms (bronchospasm), anaphylactic reactions including anaphylactic shock, Cushing's syndrome, cushingoid features, adrenal suppression, growth retardation in children and adolescents, decreased bone mineral density, oesophageal candidiasis, behavioural changes including psychomotor hyperactivity and irritability (predominately in children), glaucoma, cardiac arrhythmias and paradoxical bronchospasm. *Not known*: depression or aggression (particularly in children). *Paradoxical bronchospasm*: substitute alternative therapy. **Legal category**: POM. **Presentation and Basic NHS cost**: Accuhaler 60 inhalations. *Seretide 100* - £18.00. *Seretide 250* - £35.00. *Seretide 500* - £40.92. Evohaler 120 inhalations. *Seretide 50* - £18.00. *Seretide 125* - £35.00. *Seretide 250* - £59.48. **Product Licence (PL) nos**: 10949/0314-0316, 10949/0337-0339. **PL holder**: Glaxo Wellcome **UK Limited, trading as GlaxoSmithKline UK**, Stockley Park West, Uxbridge, UB11 1BT. **Last date of revision**: May 2015; UK/RESP/0333/14(1). Seretide, Accuhaler and

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Adverse events should be reported. Reporting forms and information can be found at [www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard). Adverse events should also be reported to GlaxoSmithKline on 0800 221 441.