

# Peer review comments – inhaled budesonide

## Managing COVID-19 rapid guideline (NG191)

### Peer review organisations

For a list of stakeholders invited to comment on COVID-19 guidance as part of the targeted peer review, please see the [targeted peer review stakeholder list](#) on the NICE website.

For this topic, the following stakeholder organisations were also invited to comment:

- British Thoracic Society

Overarching category	Guideline section	Theme of comments	Action taken
Recommendation	Recommendation	There was general agreement with the recommendation that inhaled budesonide should only be used to treat COVID-19 as part of a clinical trial.	No action required.
Research recommendation	Research recommendation	Minimal comments about the research recommendation. One response asked that we specify that research be double blinded, with a placebo control.	Text amended to add reference to placebo control allowing blinding.
Cost effectiveness	Evidence to decision - resources	One response suggested that cost-effectiveness and patient acceptability analysis of inhaled budesonide would be beneficial, as small benefits can be important when applied to large populations.	Cost effectiveness has been added to the recommendation for research, and we will look to include this in a future update.

Date of completion: 24/09/2021

Overarching category	Guideline section	Theme of comments	Action taken
Treatment	PICO summary	One response asked that it be acknowledged that inhalers are generally very poorly used, resulting in variable effectiveness of the inhaled treatment. The response also asked that if spacers were used in the studies, this be noted.	The panel discussed the fact that inhalers can be difficult to use, so this point was added to the evidence to decision section. The studies did not use spacers, so no action was taken on this point.
GRADE	PICO - GRADE	One respondent raised some queries about presentation of plain text summaries in GRADE.	Minor amendments were made to ensure consistency in the plain text summaries.