

## Inhalers for asthma, COPD, and other lung conditions

### Patient information regarding inhaler links to the tobacco industry

This document is endorsed by:

Asthma + Lung UK, British Thoracic Society, Primary Care Respiratory Society, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, the UK Inhaler Group and the UK Clinical Pharmacy Association



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## **Inhalers for asthma, COPD, and other lung conditions – links to the tobacco industry**

The aim of this leaflet is to provide information to people with asthma, COPD and other lung conditions who are taking inhaled medications and are concerned about the recent takeover of Vectura by Philip Morris International.

**Whatever happens, your priority and that of your healthcare professional is to make sure that you have medication that is safe and works for you.**

**Do not stop taking the inhalers that you have been prescribed without speaking to a healthcare professional.**

### **Background**

Philip Morris International (PMI) is one of the world's largest tobacco companies. PMI bought Vectura, a company that specialises in inhaled medication technology, in September 2021. Tobacco products cause lung disease and make lung disease worse, so this takeover has been widely condemned both by healthcare professional bodies and by patient organisations.

Several pharmaceutical companies that make medicines used by people with COPD, asthma and other lung diseases worked with Vectura in the past before it was taken over by PMI. This meant that Vectura received money based on sales of their products. Now that Vectura is owned by PMI, sales of these products results in income going to the tobacco industry.

### **What if I am using one of these inhalers and want to change?**

If you feel uncomfortable using a device/brand linked to the tobacco industry, you can ask to use an alternative product. There are now many inhalers available to treat asthma, COPD and other lung diseases. This means that for most people there are a range of alternatives which are just as effective and as safe as the medications above. Speak to your healthcare professional about this and they can advise about alternatives.

### **What should happen if I do change inhaler?**

Whenever you start a new inhaler it is important to make sure that you are using it correctly. This makes it as effective as possible and reduces the risk of side-effects. Your doctor, nurse, physiotherapist or pharmacist can show you how to use your new device. Make sure that you have a look at the instruction leaflet.

There are also good inhaler technique [videos](https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/inhaler-videos/) <https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/inhaler-videos/> that you can watch online to check your technique.

For most people, changing inhalers will make little difference to their symptoms on a day-to-day basis. It may be worth keeping a diary of your symptoms for a few weeks to help keep an eye on this.

Some people may even notice an improvement, but if you feel that your symptoms have got worse after changing inhalers, let your health professional know. The options may be to try another alternative inhaler or to go back to what you were on before.

### What if I do not want to change my inhaler?

Some people feel safest staying with what they know. Sometimes it has taken some trial and error to find the inhaler that is best for an individual. The most important thing will always be that you are able to manage your lung condition safely and well.

### Which inhalers have a link to Vectura?

Some of the inhalers on the list below are made by Vectura, and some have licensing links to Vectura relating to the ingredients within the inhaler. This means that sales of these devices results in income going to the tobacco industry.

<b>Product</b>	<b>Manufacturer(s)/Partners*</b>
Flutiform pMDI	MundiPharma
Flutiform K-haler	MundiPharma
Ultibro Breezhaler	Novartis
Seebri Breezhaler	Novartis
Enerzair Breezhaler	Novartis
AirFluSal Forspiro	Sandoz
WockAIR Forspiro	Wockhardt
Breelib nebuliser	Bayer
Incruse Ellipta	GSK
Anoro Ellipta	GSK
Relvar Ellipta	GSK
Trelegy Ellipta	GSK

**Remember, the priority is always to ensure that you have the treatment you need to manage your condition.**

### **This patient information has been developed and endorsed by:**

Asthma + Lung UK

The British Thoracic Society

The Primary Care Respiratory Society

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society

The UK Inhaler Group

The UK Clinical Pharmacy Association

The advice reflects the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) Joint [statement](#) on the implications of Philip Morris International's acquisition of Vectura Issued by: The European Respiratory Society, The American Thoracic Society, International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases, Asian Pacific Society of Respirology, Asociación Latino Americana De Tórax, the Global Initiative for Asthma.

*\*this list of medications is based on information from Vectura prospectus and is accurate as of 1/12/21.*