

## CONSUMER MEDIA RELEASE

### **Aussies with severe asthma urged to have their asthma management plan ready for extreme weather events**

- *A new treatment for adults with severe asthma, Trimbow®200/6/10 (beclometasone/formoterol/glycopyrronium), is available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from 1 January 2023.<sup>1,4</sup>*
- *Up to 200,000 Australians may be living with severe asthma.<sup>2</sup>*
- *Extreme weather events, and changes in seasons, can increase asthma symptoms for many Australians.<sup>3</sup>*
- *Trimbow 200 is a triple therapy for asthma maintenance treatment for adults in a puffer device.<sup>1,4</sup>*

Melbourne, Australia – A new maintenance treatment for adults with severe asthma becomes available from January 1 on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) – Trimbow 200/6/10, a triple therapy in an inhaler (puffer) device.<sup>1</sup>

Up to 200,000 Australians may experience severe asthma in their lifetime – which is a debilitating and traumatic breathing condition.<sup>2</sup>

Dr Greg Katsoulotos, Respiratory Physician at St Vincent’s Clinic in Sydney said many people with severe asthma self-isolate, often suffering the psychological issues of isolation because they are in fear of asthma attacks. “If people can better manage their condition so they are in control of their asthma it’s like letting them out of lockdown,” he said.

Trimbow 200 is a triple combination of an inhaled corticosteroid, beclometasone; long-acting beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist, formoterol; and a long-acting muscarinic antagonist, glycopyrronium. Trimbow helps to relieve and prevent symptoms such as shortness of breath, wheezing and cough in adults with asthma.<sup>4</sup> Trimbow enables three medicines to be taken in one inhaler device.<sup>4</sup>

With Australia experiencing extreme changes in weather patterns, causing environmental events such as heavy rain, thunderstorms, fires, and flooding, those living with asthma may be experiencing a heightened level of symptoms during these unprecedented times.<sup>3</sup> Extreme weather events can see an increase in airborne allergens, such as pollen and dust mites, and mould spores can multiply causing havoc for those living with allergies and asthma.<sup>3</sup>

Dr Katsoulotos said people with asthma need to be reminded that it is not normal to be breathless and wheeze every day, and to see a doctor to determine the best management plan.

Trimbow 200 puffer is now funded on the PBS for the treatment of severe asthma patients at risk of flare-ups, who are still experiencing symptoms despite being on combination therapy.<sup>1</sup>

As with other combination inhaler treatments for asthma, Trimbow is generally well tolerated. Common side-effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people) include sore throat, runny or stuffy nose and sneezing, fungal infections of the mouth, hoarseness and headache.<sup>5</sup> Asthma patients should speak to their doctor or other healthcare professional if they require further information about their condition or Trimbow.

“It is valuable for patients to have access to new treatment and device options such as Trimbow, particularly for those patients with severe asthma,” said Dr Katsoulotos.

“However, people with asthma need to remember to take their medication every day, like with any

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puffer, not just when they feel like it. Ultimately see your doctor to check your asthma management plan is up to date and stick to using the recommended medication every day.”

Dr Andrew Scroop, Director at Respiratory Consultants in Adelaide said, “People are worried about how extreme weather events affect their control of asthma symptoms. These are not confined to thunderstorms, but with seasonal changes there can be extreme and rapid changes in temperature.

“These extreme weather events are becoming more common in Australia lately, so it’s timely as we are heading into summer to see your GP to update your asthma management action plan.”

CEO of Asthma Australia Michele Goldman welcomed the new listing on the PBS for people living with severe asthma saying new treatment options can make all the difference to living better.

“Severe asthma is a life-threatening lung condition that can have debilitating impacts on someone’s life and family. A new severe asthma medicine adds hope that there’s a possible solution towards better health and one that’s made more affordable on the PBS.”

James Micevski, Head of Medical and Scientific Affairs, Chiesi Australia said the PBS approval of Trimbow 200 is an important step forward for the management of asthma in Australia.

“This new PBS listing for Trimbow 200 in asthma marks the next milestone for Chiesi and demonstrates our continued commitment to respiratory medicine for Australian patients,” Dr Micevski said.

## ENDS

### About asthma

- Just under 2.7 million (10.7%) Australians had asthma in 2020-21<sup>6</sup>
- One in three people with asthma (34.6%) had a written action plan<sup>6</sup>
- One in three people with asthma (34.9%) used asthma-related medication daily<sup>6</sup>
- There were 417 deaths due to asthma in 2020<sup>7</sup>

Download Asthma Australia’s free action plan template and find out more about living well with asthma, by visiting [Asthma Australia](#) or calling 1800 278 462.

### About Trimbow<sup>4</sup>

Trimbow is a medicine for inhalation use to help breathing that contains the three active substances:

- beclometasone dipropionate,
- formoterol (eformoterol) fumarate dihydrate and
- glycopyrronium bromide (glycopyrrolate).

Beclometasone dipropionate belongs to a group of medicines called corticosteroids which act to reduce the swelling and irritation in the lungs.

Formoterol and glycopyrronium are medicines called long-acting bronchodilators. They act in different ways to relax the muscles in your airways, helping to open the airways wider and allowing you to breathe more easily.

### Important Safety Information<sup>4</sup>

Trimbow should not be taken if you are allergic to beclometasone dipropionate, formoterol fumarate dihydrate, glycopyrronium bromide or to any of the other ingredients of this medicine.

Trimbow is not used for initial therapy. Trimbow is used as a maintenance treatment for your asthma. Do not use this medicine to treat a sudden attack of breathlessness or wheezing.

There is a risk of worsening shortness of breath and wheezing immediately after using Trimbow. If this occurs, you should stop using Trimbow and use your quick-acting “reliever” inhaler straightaway to treat the shortness of breath and wheezing. You should contact your doctor straightaway.

Tell your doctor, pharmacist or nurse immediately if you notice any of the following:

- allergic reactions like skin allergies, hives, skin itching, skin rash, reddening of the skin, swelling of the skin or mucous membranes especially of the eyes, face, lips and throat.
- eye pain or discomfort, temporary blurring of vision, visual halos or coloured images in association with red eyes. These may be signs of an acute attack of narrow-angle glaucoma
- Symptoms of a lung infection such as fever or chills, increased mucus production, change in mucus colour, or increased cough or increased breathing difficulties.

Common side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people) include sore throat, runny or stuffy nose and sneezing, fungal infections of the mouth, hoarseness, headache, urinary tract infection.

### **Additional Information**

The information contained within this media release does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to a healthcare professional. Please speak to your doctor for further information about asthma or Trimbow. For a copy of the Consumer Medicine Information, please ask your healthcare professional.

In relation to this Chiesi Australia media announcement, no compensation was provided to Dr Greg Katsoulotos or Dr Andrew Scroop, the opinions expressed are their own.

### **About Chiesi Australia<sup>8</sup>**

Chiesi Australia is the Australia-New Zealand division of the Chiesi Group, a global pharmaceutical company based in Parma, Italy. The Chiesi Group acquired Emerge Health in November 2019. The Chiesi Group (also known as Chiesi Farmaceutici) is an international research focused Group with over 85 years' experience in healthcare, operating in 30 countries. Chiesi conducts research, develops treatment options and supplies innovative drugs to treat a wide range of conditions. The Research and Development Centre is based in Parma, Italy and coordinates the activities of six important R&D groups in France, USA, UK, Canada, China and Sweden to drive its own pre-clinical, clinical and registration programs. Chiesi continues to focus in areas of respiratory diseases, specialty care and rare diseases.

### **References**

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