

26 March 2025

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Salbutamol (Salamol Easi-Breathe®) 100micrograms/dose breath actuated inhaler CFC free

Priority: Level 2*
Valid until: early April 2025

Issue

1. Salbutamol (Salamol Easi-Breathe®) 100micrograms/dose breath actuated inhaler CFC free is out of stock until early April 2025.
2. Salbutamol pressurised metered-dose inhalers (pMDIs) are available (Salamol® 100micrograms / dose inhaler CFC free and Ventolin Evohaler® 100micrograms/dose inhaler CFC free) and can support an uplift in demand.
3. Salbutamol (Airomir®) 100micrograms/dose inhaler CFC free is currently unavailable, awaiting resupply date.

Advice and Actions

4. Where patients have insufficient supplies of salbutamol (Salamol Easi-Breathe® 100micrograms/dose breath actuated inhaler CFC free) to last until the resupply date, prescribers should:
 - consider prescribing one month supply of salbutamol pMDI, assessing whether a spacer is required, and ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients, is counselled on how to use the pMDI with/without spacer, and on the dose to be administered; or
 - consider in patients aged 12 years and above, whether first line 'Maintenance And Reliever Therapy' (MART) or 'Anti-inflammatory reliever' (AIR) therapy is more appropriate than the use of salbutamol.
5. If the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on management options.

Additional Information

Clinical Information

*<https://www.nss.nhs.scot/media/1842/medicine-supply-alert-notices-definitions-of-classifications-21-october-2019.pdf>

6. Pressurised MDIs require dexterity and the ability to coordinate actuation with inhalation. In all children and in patients who may struggle with this, a spacer device and counselling on its use should be provided.
7. British Thoracic Society (BTS), National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) asthma guidance on transferring patients with uncontrolled asthma from other treatment pathways recommends that those aged 12 years and above, who are only using a short-acting beta-2-agonist (SABA) should be offered a low-dose inhaled corticosteroid (ICS)/ formoterol combination inhaler to be used as needed (as-needed AIR therapy). It recommends changing treatment to low-dose MART for people with asthma that is not controlled on regular low-dose ICS plus SABA as needed.

Links to further information

- [SmPC – Salbutamol 100microgram/dose presentations](#)
- [NICE Guidance – Asthma: diagnosis, monitoring and chronic asthma management \(BTS, NICE, SIGN\)](#)
- [Asthma and Lung UK – Spacer advice](#)
- [BNF: Inhaler devices](#)
- [BNF: Chronic asthma](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

8. The UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in conjunction with SPS have launched an online Medicines Supply Tool, which provides up to date information about medicine supply issues. To access the online Medicines Supply Tool you need to register with the [SPS website](#). Registration for access to the website is available to UK healthcare professionals and organisations providing NHS healthcare. The tool is located under the Tools tab and then click on the Medicines Supply option.
9. We encourage prescribers, pharmacy professionals, and pharmacy procurement leads in Scotland to register with the SPS website and use its Medicine Supply Tool to stay up to date concerning medicines supply disruptions. Please be aware that while medicines supply issues will appear on the SPS website, some of the recommended actions may not always be appropriate / relevant within the Scottish context.

Enquiries

10. Enquiries from Health Boards or healthcare professionals should be directed in the first instance to PharmacyTeam@gov.scot (primary care) or NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot (secondary care).