

MEDICATION INFORMATION FOR PEDIATRIC PATIENTS

Albuterol

(Brand Names: Proventil, Ventolin, others)

Dosing Instructions: _____

What is this medicine for?

- used to make breathing easier by relaxing and opening the air passages in children with asthma and other respiratory problems

How should I give my child this medicine?

- There are several different ways to give albuterol. Follow the specific instructions given to you by your child's doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. If you are told to give this medicine only when your child is having difficulty breathing, be sure you understand the symptoms and know when to give it.
- This medicine should only be given to the patient for whom it is prescribed.
- If your child is using an inhaler, shake it well before each use. Adding a spacer device may make it easier to give the dose.
- If using an inhaler or nebulizer, rinse your child's mouth out with water after each use.
- If using an inhaler or nebulizer, keep the equipment clean and dry between uses.
- Give your child only the amount prescribed.
- Always keep a supply of albuterol on hand.

How should this medicine be stored?

- Keep medicine in its original bottle.
- Keep all medicine out of the reach of children.
- Store in a cool, dry place away from sunlight.
- Do not let the medicine freeze.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

- If you have been instructed to give this medicine to your child on a regular schedule, give the dose as soon as you remember it. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, do not give the missed dose. Do not give your child a double dose.

What precautions or special instructions should I know about?

- Do not give your child any other medicines, including over-the-counter medicines, until you have checked with your child's doctor or pharmacist.

What are the common side effects of this medicine?

- cough, dryness, or a bad taste in the mouth after inhaling albuterol
- mild tremors, nervousness, hyperactivity, insomnia (happens more often with higher doses)
- nausea, vomiting

Stop giving your child this medicine and call your child's doctor immediately if:

- Your child is not getting better or is using the inhaler more often than prescribed.
- Any of the common side effects become severe.
- Your child has any of these reactions:
 - worsening of breathing problems, wheezing
 - dizziness
 - palpitations or a fast heartbeat
 - skin rash or swelling of face, hands, or feet
 - headache or weakness

Notes and Special Instructions:

This medication information sheet is a summary and intended for information purposes only. If you have any other questions, please ask your child's doctor or pharmacist.
