

VENTOLIN[®] CFC-FREE INHALER

Salbutamol (as sulphate) Inhaler 100µg per actuation

Consumer Medicine Information

Please read this leaflet carefully before you start using Ventolin CFC-Free Inhaler.

What is in this leaflet?

This leaflet does not have the complete information about your medicine. If you have any questions about your medicine, you should ask your doctor or pharmacist (also known as a chemist).

All medicines have some risks. Sometimes new risks are found even when a medicine has been used for many years.

If there is anything you do not understand, ask your doctor or pharmacist. If you want more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

This medicine is only one part of a general plan to help you manage your asthma or other chest condition. You should discuss this plan with your doctor. Ask your doctor to check your treatment regularly.

Keep this information. You may want to read it again.

What is the name of my medicine?

The name of your medicine is Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler.

What does my Ventolin inhaler do?

Your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler helps you to breathe more easily. When your chest is tight or when you are wheezing, the Ventolin opens up the breathing tubes in your

lungs. Your medicine is known as a bronchodilator. Because your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler gives fast relief from your chest symptoms, it is often called a 'reliever puffer'.

Some people start wheezing or their chest starts to feel tight when they exercise. This is called exercise-induced asthma. If you have exercise-induced asthma, your doctor may tell you to take one or two puffs of your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler before you exercise. This can help to prevent the symptoms of exercise-induced asthma.

Before you use your inhaler

Tell your doctor:

- the names of all other medicines you are already taking, including those from the pharmacy and supermarket
- if you have had to stop taking this or any other asthma medicine
- if you are allergic to any medicine, foods, dyes or preservatives
- if you are having treatment for a thyroid problem
- if you are having treatment for high blood pressure
- if you have a heart problem
- if you have a liver problem
- if you have a kidney problem

When you must NOT use your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler

- Do not use your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler if you have ever had an allergic reaction to salbutamol or any of the other ingredients in your inhaler.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breast feeding. Your doctor will tell you if you should take your medicine. It is important that asthma is managed well during pregnancy and you should not stop your medicine without asking your doctor first.
- Do not use your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler to control premature labour.

Using your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler

You will find the instructions on how to use Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler in the pack. Follow the instructions carefully

The pharmacist's label will usually tell you how many puffs to take and how often to use your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler. If you are not sure, ask your doctor or pharmacist. If your chest condition suddenly gets worse, your doctor may tell you to take extra puffs of your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler. If you take extra puffs and do not get

relief, tell your doctor immediately.

You should visit your doctor or pharmacist regularly to check that you are using your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler in the right way. If you are not breathing the medicine in correctly, the medicine may not be helping you as much as it could.

If you find it difficult to breathe in and use your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler at the same time, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. It may be better for you to use something called a 'large volume spacer' with your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler. Your doctor or pharmacist will explain to you what this is and how to use it.

What should I do if my Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler does not have the usual effect?

IMPORTANT: If your breathing suddenly becomes more difficult just after you have used your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler, tell your doctor immediately.

If your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler does not help your breathing as much as usual, tell your doctor as soon as possible. If the effect of your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler does not last as long as usual or lasts less than 3 hours, tell your doctor as soon as possible. These may be signs that your chest condition is getting worse.

Your doctor may decide to add another medicine to your treatment if your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler is not having the same effect as before.

Side-Effects

Like all other medicines, your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler may cause some side effects. Most of the side-effects will be minor and temporary, but some may be serious. Your doctor or pharmacist will be able to answer any questions you may have.

If you have any of the following side effects, tell your doctor or pharmacist but do not stop using your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler:

Common side-effects

- headache
- nausea
- shaky or tense feeling
- your heart beats faster than usual
- 'warm' feeling (caused by blood vessels expanding under the skin)
- mouth or throat irritation.

Rare side-effects

- muscle cramps
- hyperactivity in children

If you have a hypersensitivity reaction, for example, skin rash, angioedema (sudden swelling under the skin), shortness of breath or wheeziness or you feel faint or dizzy, you should stop using your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler and tell your doctor or pharmacist immediately.

In a few people, the medicine in Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler may affect their blood potassium levels. Your doctor may do tests to check this.

If you have any other problems after using your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler, tell your doctor or pharmacist.

What if I take too many puffs of my Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler (overdose)

You should only take the number of puffs that you have been told.

If you have used too much of your medicine, immediately telephone your doctor or Poisons Centre for advice (0800 POISON 0800 764 766), even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention.

Keep telephone numbers for these places handy.

If you are not sure what to do, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

Storage

Straight after use, replace the mouthpiece cover firmly and click it into position. Do not use excessive force.

Keep your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler in a place where children cannot reach it.

Keep your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler away from frost. Do not put it in the refrigerator.

Keep your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler away from bright sunlight.

Keep your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler away from heat (store below 30°C). Do not leave it in the car on hot days.

In very cold places, your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler may become very cold. To warm it, pull out the metal can from its plastic holder and warm it in your hand for a few minutes. Do not warm the can in any other way. Push the can firmly back into its holder before using.

You will find an expiry (or use by) date on the label of the metal can. Do not use your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler after this date.

Glaxo Wellcome inhalers are designed to give out a metered dose of medication until they are empty.

You can estimate the number of doses left in the inhaler by shaking it, calculating approximately the number of doses that have been used, or keeping a record of the number of doses you have used up.

On average, Glaxo Wellcome includes 10% more active doses in each inhaler than is specified on the label.

Floating the inhaler in water to estimate the amount of doses left in the inhaler is not recommended. Water may enter the valve in the inhaler, which may affect the accuracy of later doses. The humidity from the water may also encourage bacteria to grow in the valve.

You should always carry a spare inhaler.

If your doctor tells you to stop using your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler or the product has passed its expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any Ventolin left over.

WARNING: The metal can is pressurised. Do not burn it or puncture it, even when it is empty.

Cleaning your inhaler

Your inhaler should be cleaned once a week.

1. Remove the metal canister from the plastic casing of the inhaler and remove the mouthpiece cover.
2. Rinse the actuator (the plastic casing) thoroughly

under warm running water.

3. Dry the actuator thoroughly inside and out.
4. Replace the metal canister and the mouthpiece cover.

Do not put the metal canister into water.

What should I do if I forget a dose?

If you forget a dose, do not worry. Just take the next dose at the normal time or earlier if you become wheezy or feel tight in the chest.

Can I let someone else use my Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler?

Your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler is only for you. You should not give this medicine to someone else.

Are there different types of asthma inhalers?

Yes. Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler is called a 'reliever puffer'. There are other types of inhalers that prevent wheezing or chest tightness. These inhalers are called 'preventer' inhalers and must be used every day. Your doctor may tell you to use a 'preventer' inhaler in addition to your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler.

Further Information

You can recycle the plastic holder and cap of your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler with other plastic things.

If you have any other questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Ingredients

The medicine in your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler is called salbutamol (as the sulphate). Each puff contains 100 salbutamol (as the sulphate). There are 200 puffs in each Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler. Your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler also contains the non-CFC propellant HFA134a also known as norflurane or 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane.

Manufacturer

Your Ventolin CFC-Free inhaler is supplied by:

GlaxoSmithKline NZ
Private Bag 106600
Downtown Auckland
New Zealand

Ph: (09) 367 2900
Fax: (09) 367 2506

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Do not throw this leaflet away. You may need to read it again

Ventolin inhaler
100 micrograms per metered dose (salbutamol sulphate).

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