

## New Zealand Consumer Medicine Information

### **ATROVENT<sup>®</sup>**

**Metered Aerosol (CFC-free)**

***Ipratropium bromide***

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#### **What is in this leaflet**

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This leaflet answers some common questions about ATROVENT metered aerosol. It does not contain all available information. Nor does it take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist. Keep this information with your metered aerosol (aerosol). You may need to read it again later.

#### ***To find out more about ATROVENT***

You should ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about your medicine or if you have any trouble before, during or after using ATROVENT.

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#### **What ATROVENT is used for?**

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ATROVENT is used to make breathing easier for people with diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) including chronic bronchitis, emphysema and asthma. ATROVENT improves air flow by opening up the breathing tubes in your lungs. It begins to act quickly after use but may take up to 2 hours to give maximum benefit.

This medicine is known as an anticholinergic bronchodilator. It is for relief of symptoms and should be part of a management program that is prescribed by your doctor.

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#### **Before you use ATROVENT**

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##### ***When not to use ATROVENT***

Only use ATROVENT if it has been prescribed for you by a doctor. Never give it to someone else even if their symptoms seem to be the same as yours.

Do not use ATROVENT if you are allergic to it or to any of the ingredients. These ingredients are listed in full at the end of this leaflet (See Ingredients). In some cases you should not use ATROVENT if you are allergic to certain other medicines. You must tell your doctor if you are allergic to any other medicine, particularly atropine or other anticholinergic medicines. If you are uncertain as to whether you have these allergies you should raise those concerns with your doctor.

You should never use ATROVENT after the EXPIRY DATE on the canister or carton.

##### ***Before you start to use ATROVENT***

It is essential that your doctor knows your medical history before prescribing ATROVENT. Before using ATROVENT, you must tell your doctor if you have, or have had, any of the following conditions:

- An eye problem called "glaucoma";

- Problems with passing urine;
- Constipation;
- Cystic fibrosis.

If you are uncertain as to whether you have, or have had, any of these conditions you should raise those concerns with your doctor.

Before using ATROVENT you should tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, obtained with or without a doctor's prescription. This is advisable as ATROVENT may affect, or be affected by, the activity of other medicines. ATROVENT may be used with other medicines that relax the air passages for additional symptom relief when prescribed by a doctor.

### ***Pregnancy***

Care is recommended during pregnancy, particularly in the first three months. Ask for your doctor's advice if you are pregnant, or likely to become pregnant during your course of medication.

### ***Breastfeeding***

Care is recommended if you are breastfeeding. Ask for your doctor's advice if you are breastfeeding or likely to breastfeed during the course of your medication.

### ***Children***

Children should only use ATROVENT on medical advice and under the supervision of an adult who has been instructed in the proper use of the aerosol.

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## **Using ATROVENT**

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### ***How to use ATROVENT***

Each puff must be properly inhaled through the mouth for ATROVENT to work. At the end of this leaflet you will find instructions on how to correctly inhale ATROVENT. If you have any problems with inhaling ATROVENT ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice. Never spray ATROVENT in or around your eyes. Should this occur, immediately flush your eyes with cold tap water for several minutes.

### ***Recommended Dose***

The recommended doses for adults and children are stated below. If your doctor has changed this dose you should ask for further information from your doctor or pharmacist.

- For Adults: 2 puffs four times daily (at regular intervals), up to a maximum of 12 puffs a day.
- For children 6 to 12 years: 1 to 2 puffs three times daily (at regular intervals).
- For children under 6 years: 1 puff three times daily (at regular intervals).

### ***If you forget to take a dose***

It is important to use ATROVENT as directed. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. However, if you remember when it is almost time for your next dose, take only your usual dose at that time.

### ***Overdose***

Seek medical advice if you have used more than the recommended or prescribed dose of ATROVENT and you experience signs of overdose as listed below.

Advice can be provided by a doctor, pharmacist or Poisons Information Centre telephone 0800 POISON (0800 764 766). Signs of overdose may include fast or irregular heart beat, blurred vision, nausea, stomach pains, constipation and difficulty passing urine.

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## **While you are using ATROVENT**

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### ***Things you must do***

Contact your doctor immediately if you experience eye pain or discomfort, or any disturbances with your sight (blurred vision, visual halos or coloured images) during or after using ATROVENT. This is because there have been rare reports of narrow-angle glaucoma with the use of ATROVENT. Tell your doctor if you need to use ATROVENT more frequently than prescribed or if you need more puffs than prescribed to relieve your symptoms. In these situations, your dose or treatment may need to be changed.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you begin taking any other medicine while you are using ATROVENT.

### ***Effects on Ability to Drive or Operate Machinery***

When used as recommended, and when there are no side effects, ATROVENT is not known to have any effect on the ability to drive or operate machinery.

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## **Side effects**

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Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are using ATROVENT.

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects. Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

If you get any side effects, do not stop using the Atrovent without first talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- headache
- dizziness
- dry mouth
- vomiting
- a change in bowel movements (eg constipation, diarrhoea)
- unexpected tightening of the chest, cough and local irritation immediately after inhaling the medicine.

These are the more common side effects of Atrovent.

Less frequently reported side effects of Atrovent include the following:

- blurred vision or difficulty in focusing

- feeling sick (nausea)
- difficulty passing urine (urinary retention)
- if it is accidentally sprayed into the eye, eye problems such as increased pressure in the eye, stinging and dilated pupils.

If any of the spray accidentally gets into your eyes you may get painful, stinging or red eyes, dilated pupils, blurred vision, see colours of lights. If this happens, talk to your doctor for advice. If you get problems with your eyes at any time, talk to your doctor for advice.

You may be developing galucoma, which will need treatment straight away. If your eyes are affected in anyway do not drive or operate machinery.

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

- difficulty breathing or worsening of your breathing problems
- swelling or severe rash
- fast or irregular heart beat
- pounding heart beat

These may be serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention. Serious side effects are rare. Other side effects not listed above may occur in some patients. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

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## **After using ATROVENT**

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### ***Care and cleaning***

Your aerosol may not work properly if it gets dirty and is not cleaned. Please follow the instructions under the heading Care and cleaning in the Directions for Use at the end of this leaflet.

### ***Storage***

ATROVENT should be kept in a cool, dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C. Do not store in direct sunlight or heat. For example, do not leave it in the car on hot days. The canister must never be forced open, punctured or thrown into a fire even when it seems empty. If this occurs, the canister may explode. Keep your ATROVENT metered aerosol where young children cannot reach it.

### ***Disposal***

If you have been told by your doctor that you will not be needing ATROVENT anymore, the unused medicine should be returned to your pharmacist so that it can be disposed of safely.

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## **Product Description**

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### ***What ATROVENT is***

ATROVENT is the brand name of your medicine. It delivers 200 puffs of medication from a 17 mL canister.

### ***Ingredients***

Each puff of ATROVENT contains ipratropium bromide 21 micrograms. ATROVENT also contains citric acid-anhydrous, purified water, absolute ethanol and norflurane.

### ***Manufacturer***

ATROVENT is made in Germany and supplied in New Zealand by:  
BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM (N.Z.) Limited  
PO Box 76-216  
Manukau City  
Auckland  
Ph 0800 802461

This leaflet was prepared on 13 August 2010  
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## **Directions for Use**

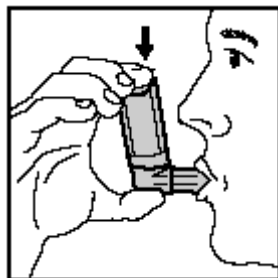
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The mouthpiece has been designed for use with the ATROVENT canister so that you always get the right amount of medicine. The mouthpiece must never be used with any other metered aerosol canister. The ATROVENT canister must not be used with any mouthpiece other than the one supplied with this product.

### ***How to use the metered aerosol***

Note: Before first use of a new aerosol, prime it by activating twice into the atmosphere. Before use, if the aerosol has not been used for 3 days, re-prime by activating once into the atmosphere.

1. Remove the protective cap from the short end of the mouthpiece.
2. Hold the aerosol with the arrow on the canister pointing upwards. Do not spray into or around the eyes.
3. Breathe out fully, to the end of a normal breath.
4. Place the open end of the mouthpiece between the lips but not past the teeth



(Figure 1).

5. Breathe in slowly through the mouth and at the same time firmly press the canister down once. Do not stop breathing when you press on the canister - continue to take a full, deep breath.
6. Hold your breath for about ten seconds if possible, then breathe out slowly. Remove the aerosol from your mouth.
7. If a second or subsequent inhalation is necessary, start again from instruction 3.
8. Replace the protective cap on the mouthpiece.

### ***Care and Cleaning***

In order to obtain the best service from your ATROVENT metered aerosol, these simple directions on maintenance should be carefully observed. One of the most common causes of failure of the metering device of the aerosol to function is a dirty or blocked mouthpiece.

Always replace the protective cap on the mouthpiece after use to prevent the inside of the mouthpiece and canister from becoming dusty. The mouthpiece of the ATROVENT metered aerosol should be kept clean by washing regularly in warm soapy water, rinsing in clear water and drying on a clean tissue.

Remember to take out the canister before you wash the mouthpiece. When removing the canister from the mouthpiece, pull out carefully to avoid bending the thin plastic stem. Never press the thin plastic stem of the canister against a firm surface to check for function. This may bend the stem and lead to malfunction of the aerosol.

### ***Using ATROVENT with a spacer***

Your doctor or pharmacist may suggest that you use a device called a 'spacer' with your aerosol, to help you use your aerosol more effectively. A spacer is a holding chamber into which you spray your aerosol before inhaling. Follow the instructions supplied with the spacer, to use your aerosol and spacer together properly.

Before first using your spacer, wash it with warm water and a small amount of detergent. Allow it to dry without rinsing, or drying with a cloth. Repeat this cleaning process at least once every month. This will help keep your spacer clean and to work properly.

Make sure you breathe in and out through the spacer after each puff from your aerosol. If you need to be shown how to use your spacer, or if you are having difficulties using your spacer, discuss this with your pharmacist.