

## PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION

### Pr VENTOLIN HFA salbutamol pressurised inhalation, suspension Mfr. Std.

This leaflet is part III of a three-part "Product Monograph" for VENTOLIN HFA and is designed specifically for Consumers. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about VENTOLIN HFA. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about the drug. Only a doctor can prescribe it for you. Never give it to someone else. It may harm them even if their symptoms are the same as yours.

#### ABOUT THIS MEDICATION

##### **What the medication is used for:**

VENTOLIN HFA is used in Adults and Children 4 years or older to:

- relieve bronchospasm
- prevent bronchospasm
- prevent bronchospasm caused by exercise

Bronchospasm is a sudden worsening of shortness of breath and wheezing.

The safety and effectiveness of VENTOLIN HFA in children under the age of 4 are not known.

##### **What it does:**

VENTOLIN HFA is one of a group of medicines called bronchodilators. VENTOLIN HFA relaxes the muscles in the walls of the small air passages in the lungs. This helps to open up the airways and so helps to relieve chest tightness, wheezing and cough so that you can breathe more easily.

##### **When it should not be used:**

Do not use VENTOLIN HFA if you are allergic to it or any of the components of its formulation or for the treatment of preterm labour or miscarriage.

##### **What the medicinal ingredient is:**

Salbutamol sulfate.

##### **What the nonmedicinal ingredient is:**

1, 1, 1, 2-tetrafluoroethane (HFA-134a).

##### **What dosage forms it comes in:**

VENTOLIN HFA is a pressurized metered dose inhaler containing 100 mcg of salbutamol per inhalation. VENTOLIN HFA will deliver at least 200 puffs. However, after 200 puffs, the amount of drug delivered per spray may not be consistent. The canister should be discarded when 200 puffs have been used.

## WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

**Before** you use VENTOLIN HFA, talk to your doctor or pharmacist if:

- You have ever had to stop taking other medications for this illness because you were allergic to them or they caused problems.
- You are having treatment for a thyroid condition.
- You are having treatment for high blood pressure or a heart problem.
- You have diabetes.
- You have a past history of seizures.
- You have low levels of potassium in your blood (hypokalemia), especially if you are taking:
  - Drugs known as xanthine derivatives (such as theophylline)
  - Steroids to treat asthma
  - Water pills (diuretics)
- You are pregnant or intend to become pregnant. Taking VENTOLIN HFA during pregnancy may cause harm to your baby. Your doctor will consider the benefit to you and the risk to your baby of taking VENTOLIN HFA while you're pregnant.
- You are breastfeeding. It is not known if VENTOLIN HFA passes into breast milk.

If the relief of wheezing or chest tightness is not as good as usual, or the effect lasts for less than three hours, tell your doctor as soon as possible. If you notice a sudden worsening of your shortness of breath and wheeze shortly after taking your medicine, tell your doctor as soon as possible. It may be that your chest condition is worsening and you may need to add another type of medicine to your treatment.

You should always carry your VENTOLIN HFA with you to use immediately in case you experience an asthma attack.

##### **Effects on Children:**

Children may experience:

- Changes in sleep patterns
- Changes in behaviour such as restlessness, excitability (hyperactivity)
- Seeing or hearing things that are not there

## INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION

As with most medicines, interactions with other drugs are possible. Tell your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about all the medicines you take, including drugs prescribed by other doctors, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements, or alternative medicines.

The following may interact with VENTOLIN HFA:

- Anti-depressants
- Allergy medication
- Blood pressure-lowering drugs, including propranolol
- Diuretics (“water pills”)
- Bronchodilators used to open the airway (such as other asthma medication)
- Epinephrine
- Digoxin, a heart medication

## PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION

VENTOLIN HFA **should only be inhaled**. Do not swallow.

### If You Are Also Using an Inhaled Corticosteroid:

- Always use VENTOLIN HFA first
- Wait a few minutes
- Then use your inhaled corticosteroid.

Your doctor may prescribe VENTOLIN HFA regularly every day, or only for when you are wheezy or short of breath, or before you exercise. Use VENTOLIN HFA only as directed by your doctor.

The action of VENTOLIN HFA may last up to 6 hours and should last for at least 4 hours.

### **You should call your doctor immediately if:**

- the effects of one dose last less than 3 hours;
- you notice a sudden worsening of your shortness of breath
- your symptoms gets worse;
- your usual dose does not provide relief of wheezing or chest tightness;
- you need to use VENTOLIN HFA more often than before

These may be signs that your asthma or chest condition is getting worse. Your doctor may want to reassess your treatment plan.

**Do not increase the dose or the number of times you use your medicine without asking your doctor, as this may make you feel worse.**

If you have to go into hospital for an operation, take your inhaler with you and tell the doctor what medicine(s) you are taking.

If your doctor decides to stop your treatment, do not keep any left over medicine unless your doctor tells you to.

### Usual dose:

**Adults and Adolescents 12 years or older**

- **To relieve bronchospasm:** 1 to 2 puffs as needed. If you have a more severe attack, you can repeat the dose every 4 to 6 hours, and immediately consult your doctor or the nearest hospital.
- **To prevent bronchospasm:** 1 to 2 puffs repeated every 4 to 6 hours to a maximum four times a day.
- **To prevent bronchospasm caused by exercise:** 2 puffs 15 minutes before exercise.

**Maximum dose** – 8 puffs in a 24 hour period

### **Children 4-11 years**

- **To relieve bronchospasm:** 1 puff as needed. The dose may be increased to 2 puffs if required. Follow your doctor’s instructions. If you have a more severe attack you can repeat the dose every 4 to 6 hours, and immediately consult your doctor or the nearest hospital.
- **To prevent bronchospasm:** 1 puff repeated every 4 to 6 hours to a maximum four times a day as prescribed by your doctor.
- **To prevent bronchospasm caused by exercise:** 1 puff 15 minutes before exercise. The dose may be increased to 2 puffs if required. Follow your doctor’s instructions.

**Maximum dose** – 4 puffs in a 24 hour period

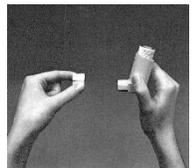
### How to Prime VENTOLIN HFA:

Before using VENTOLIN HFA for the first time, or if your inhaler has not been used for more than 5 days, shake the inhaler well and release four puffs into the air to ensure that it works properly.

### How to Use VENTOLIN HFA:

It is extremely important that you use your VENTOLIN HFA properly. This will ensure it is delivered correctly so that you receive maximum benefit. Carefully follow the instructions shown.

1. To remove the snap-on mouthpiece cover, hold between the thumb and forefinger, squeeze gently and pull apart as shown. Check inside and outside of the inhaler including the mouthpiece for the presence of loose objects.
2. Shake the inhaler well to ensure that any loose objects are removed and the contents of the inhaler are evenly mixed.



3. Hold the inhaler upright between fingers and thumb with your thumb on the base, below the mouthpiece. Breathe out as far as is comfortable.



4. Place the mouthpiece in your mouth between your teeth and close your lips around it, but do not bite it. Just after starting to breathe in through your mouth, press down on the top of the inhaler to release the drug while still breathing in steadily and deeply.



5. While holding your breath, take the inhaler from your mouth and take your finger from the top of the inhaler. Continue holding your breath for as long as is comfortable.



6. If you are to take further puffs, keep the inhaler upright and wait about half a minute before repeating steps 2 through 5.
7. Replace the mouthpiece cover by firmly pushing and snapping the cap into position to keep out dust and lint.

**Important:** Do not rush steps 3, 4, and 5. It is important that you start to breathe in as slowly as possible just before operating your inhaler. Practice in front of a mirror for the first few times. If you see "mist" coming from the top of your inhaler or the sides of your mouth, you should start again from step 2.

**Children - VENTOLIN HFA** should be used under the supervision of an adult who understands the proper use of the inhaler, and only as prescribed by the doctor. The adult must encourage the child (as described above) to exhale, and then trigger the spray immediately as inhalation begins. Use of a spacer with the inhaler is recommended for children under 5 years of age. Talk to your doctor if your child has difficulties using the inhaler.

#### **How to clean VENTOLIN HFA :**

Your inhaler should be cleaned at least once per week.

1. Pull the metal canister out of the plastic casing of the inhaler and remove the mouthpiece cover.
2. Rinse the plastic casing of the inhaler thoroughly under warm running water and then wash the plastic casing again through the mouthpiece. **Do not put the metal canister into water.**
3. Dry the plastic casing of the inhaler **THOROUGHLY** inside and out.
4. Replace the canister and mouthpiece cover.
5. After cleansing, release one puff into the air to make sure that the inhaler works.

#### **Overdose:**

In case of drug overdose, contact a health care practitioner, hospital emergency department or regional Poison Control Centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms. Take this leaflet or your medication with you so that the hospital or poison control centre will know what you have taken.

If you accidentally take a **larger dose than prescribed**, you are more likely to get side effects like a faster heart beat, headaches and feeling shaky or restless. These effects usually wear off within a few hours, but you should tell your doctor as soon as possible.

#### **Missed Dose:**

If you forget to inhale a dose, do not worry, just inhale the next dose when it is due or if you become wheezy.

### **SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM**

Side effects may include:

Effects on heart

- Hypertension

Effects on nervous system

- Headache
- Feeling a little shaky
- Feeling anxious or irritable
- Feeling tired or weak
- Trouble sleeping (insomnia)
- Hyperactivity in children
- Dizziness, vertigo
- Drowsiness

Effects on muscles and joints

- Muscle cramps
- Muscle pain

Other Effects

- Cough
- Respiratory infections and/or inflammation
- Diarrhea
- Nausea and vomiting
- Chest pain or discomfort
- Flushing
- Difficulty urinating
- Unusual taste in your mouth
- Dry or irritated throat

## SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Symptom/effect		Talk with your doctor or pharmacist		Stop taking drug and call your doctor or pharmacist
		Only if severe	In all cases	
Common	Faster heart beat than usual		✓	
Uncommon	Irregular heart beat (palpitations)		✓	
Rare	<b>Low Blood Potassium (hypokalemia):</b> muscle weakness and muscle spasms		✓	
	<b>Hallucinations in Children:</b> see or hear things that are not there		✓	
Very Rare	<b>Bronchospasm:</b> Sudden worsening of shortness of breath and wheezing shortly after using VENTOLIN HFA			✓
	<b>Allergic Reactions:</b> sudden wheeziness and chest pain or tightness; or swelling of eyelids, face, lips, tongue or throat.			✓
	<b>Irregular Heart Beat</b> (atrial fibrillation, supraventricular tachycardia, extrasystoles)		✓	

*This is not a complete list of side effects. If you have any unexpected effects after receiving VENTOLIN HFA, contact your doctor or pharmacist.*

## HOW TO STORE IT

**Keep out of sight and reach of children.**

After use, replace the mouthpiece cover firmly and snap it into position. Do not use excessive force.

Store at a temperature between 15°C and 25°C. Do not keep any left over medicine unless your doctor tells you to.

**Warning:** The canister contents are under pressure. The canister may explode if heated. Do not place in hot water or near radiators, stoves or other sources of heat. Even when empty, do not puncture or incinerate canister.

### Reporting Side Effects

You can report any suspected side effects associated with the use of health products to Health Canada by: Visiting the Web page on Adverse Reaction Reporting (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada/adverse-reaction-reporting.html>) for information on how to report online, by mail or by fax; or calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345

*NOTE: Contact your health professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.*

## MORE INFORMATION

You may need to read this leaflet again. **PLEASE DO NOT THROW IT AWAY** until you have finished your medicine.

This document plus the full product monograph, prepared for health professionals, can be found at:

<http://www.gsk.ca>;

Or by contacting the sponsor,  
GlaxoSmithKline Inc.  
100 Milverton Drive, Suite 800  
Mississauga, Ontario  
L5R 4H1  
1-800-387-7374.

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