IN BRIEF

A New Albuterol Inhaler (ProAir RespiClick) for Asthma

The short-acting beta₂-agonist albuterol sulfate is now available as a dry powder for inhalation (ProAir RespiClick – Teva) for prevention and treatment of bronchospasm in patients ≥12 years old. ProAir RespiClick is the only short-acting beta₂-agonist dry powder inhaler available in the US.

Table 1. Short-Acting Beta₂-Agonist Inhalers for Asthma

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Formulations</th>
<th>Cost¹</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albuterol</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ProAir HFA (Teva)</td>
<td>HFA MDI 90 mcg/inh</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proventil HFA (Merck)</td>
<td>(60² or 200 inh/unit)</td>
<td>64.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventolin HFA (GSK)</td>
<td>DPI 90 mcg/inh</td>
<td>45.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ProAir RespiClick (Teva)</td>
<td>(200 inh/unit)</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levalbuterol</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xopenex HFA (Sunovion)</td>
<td>HFA MDI 45 mcg/inh (80, 200 inh/unit)</td>
<td>62.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HFA = hydrofluoroalkane; MDI = metered-dose inhaler; inh = inhalation; DPI = dry powder inhaler

1. Approximate WAC for one inhaler providing 200 inhalations. WAC = wholesaler acquisition cost or manufacturer’s published price to wholesalers; WAC represents a published catalogue or list price and may not represent an actual transactional price. Source: AnalySource® Monthly, October 5, 2015. Reprinted with permission by First Databank, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2015. www.fdbhealth.com/policies/drug-pricing-policy.

2. Only Ventolin HFA is available in units providing 60 inhalations.

Metered-dose inhalers (MDIs) use a hydrofluoroalkane (HFA) propellant. They require coordination of inhalation with actuation; using them with a valved holding chamber minimizes this need, but decreases portability because of the size of the chamber. Dry powder inhalers such as ProAir RespiClick, which are breath-actuated, do not require a propellant and do not have to be primed before use. They do not require coordination of inhalation with actuation, but patients must be capable of performing a rapid, deep inhalation, which might be difficult during a severe asthma attack.

The recommended dose of ProAir RespiClick for treatment of bronchospasm is 2 inhalations, but 1 inhalation may be sufficient for some patients. The dose can be repeated every 4–6 hours as needed. For prevention of exercise-induced bronchospasm, the recommended dosage is 2 inhalations 15–30 minutes before exercise.

Each ProAir RespiClick inhaler includes a dose counter. Opening the mouthpiece cap readies a dose for administration and causes the counter to count down by 1; closing the cap without inhaling the medication wastes that dose. The inhaler should be cleaned with a dry cloth as needed.

ProAir RespiClick may contain trace levels of milk proteins; it is contraindicated for use in patients with a history of a severe hypersensitivity reaction to milk proteins.