

MEDIXFACTS

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Call Pharmedix customer service for current pricing on newly released generics. Ask for our new OTC, Injectables & Med-Surg catalogue!!

MEDIXFACTS IS A NEWS PUBLICATION OF PHARMEDIX CO. UNION CITY, CA. 1-800-486-1811.

What's the story with ALBUTEROL INHALERS??

You may have noticed a sharp rise in the price of *Albuterol Sulfate Inhalation Aerosol*

New FDA regulations banning CFC's in aerosols go into effect in 2008, but as of January 2006, only three manufacturers are making the generic inhalers. Even they are phasing them out.

Expect occasional shortages as the market responds to these supply fluctuations.

Albuterol Sulfate HFA, a CFC-free preparation, costs around \$35 & has limited availability .

Rest assured that *Pharmedix* is working to try to find a cost-effective solution to this important treatment.

For current pricing and other information call customer service at 1-800-486-1811.

GENERICS FOR ZITHROMAX™ (Z-PAK™), ALLEGRA™ and METROGEL™ NOW AVAILABLE

A ZITHROMYCIN 250MG #6 & 500MG #3, the generic for **Z-PAK™ (ZITHROMAX™)** hit the market, in early 2006, driving down the price for this effective treatment. While the price is still fluctuating, the cost of the generic is approximately half the cost of the brand.

FEXOFENADINE 60MG & 180MG capsules, generic for **ALLEGRA™**, is also now available. The cost of the generic is still much higher than loratadine (**CLARITIN™**), but will be about 30% lower than the cost of the brand.

METRONIDAZOLE 0.75% vaginal gel, generic for **METROGEL™** is now available for \$20-\$25 less than the brand. Indicated for the treatment of bacterial vaginosis and non-specific vaginitis. Available package size: 70gm tube (with applicators).

NEW FEDERAL REGULATIONS: OTC PSEUDOEPHEDRINE Is PHENYLEPHRINE the solution for your patients?

In an effort to curb the use of *pseudoephedrine (PSE)* in the manufacturing of "meth," new federal restrictions were placed on the sale of all OTC products containing PSE in the Patriot Act extension. The full law goes into effect September 30, 2006.

▼All PSE products, including OTCs, are now "scheduled listed chemical products."

▼Sales limited to 3.6gm/day.

▼Purchases limited to 9gm/30days.

▼All non-liquid forms must be in blister-packs or in unit dose packaging.

▼These products must be stored behind a counter or in a locked cabinet.

For OTC sales over 60mg:

▼Consumers/patients must sign a written or electronic log indicating name, address, time and date of sale. Amount and quantity of the product must be logged by provider.

See the full text of the law at: www.cpha.com/links/HR3199_Patriot_Act.pdf

▼Customers/patients must show federal or state issued photo ID.

▼Log must be maintained for 2 years. Log must also show a misrepresentation warning with maximum fine & prison term.

▼Individuals dealing with purchasers/patients must be trained in these new procedures.

▼Retailers must submit certification of compliance to Attorney General.

What does this mean for In-Office Dispensing? Do I have options?

It appears that you may still administer over-the-counter PSE in unit-dose packages of 60mg or less without keeping a log.

However, you may consider a PSE-free product such as **phenylephrine**,

Phenylephrine has been used for years in nasally-administered decongestants.

Orally administered **phenylephrine** has an efficacy profile similar to that of PSE.

According to *Pharmacy Today*, (9/2005), **phenylephrine** may have fewer adverse cardiovascular effects than PSE.

Phenylephrine is dosed 10mg every 4 hours, 60mg daily max.

Pharmedix offers unit-dose packages of *Medi-Phenyl®* (phenylephrine HCl 5mg) Box of 250x2
Order #: PQ20513