

MEDIXFACTS

Fall-Winter 2008

Volume 2, Issue 2

Call your customer service representative at 1-800-486-1811 if you have questions & for current pricing on HFA-Propelled Albuterol Inhalers.

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

New order minimum requirements

Our new minimum order requirement will not go into effect until September 1st. As mentioned in our earlier newsletter, shipping full drug trays, whenever possible, is more energy efficient.

Unless specified otherwise on your order sheet, all labeled Rx products have a minimum order of 5. These products can be ordered only as follows: 5-10-20-30 etc. Orders for 7 will be rounded down to 5, orders for 8 will be rounded up to 10, orders for 18 will be round up to 20 etc.

For products with a minimum order of 6 that product can be ordered only as follows: 6-12-24-36 etc.

For products with a minimum order of 10, that product can be ordered only as follows: 10-20-30-40 etc.

For products with a minimum order of 12, that product can be ordered only as follows: 12-24-36-48 etc.

For products with a minimum order of 20, that product can be ordered only as follows: 20-40-60 etc.

FDA Advises Patients to Switch to HFA-Propelled Albuterol Inhalers Now

The FDA has issued a public health advisory on May 30th 2008 to alert patients and health professionals to switch to HFA-propelled albuterol inhalers because CFC albuterol inhalers will not be available in the United States after December 31, 2008. These products are safe and effective replacements for the CFC-propelled albuterol inhalers. The phase out of CFC inhalers is the result of the Clean Air Act and an international environmental treaty, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Under this treaty, the United States has agreed to phase out production and importation of ozone depleting substances. Since CFC-propelled albuterol inhalers are considered harmful to the environment by contributing to the depletion of the ozone layer, no CFC-propelled albuterol inhalers may be **produced, marketed or sold in the United States after December 31st. This will include retail sales.** Unfortunately the older CFC inhalers are half the price of the newer HFA inhalers which may cause a significant financial burden on many patients. In addition, manufacturers of the newer HFA products have had major supply problems in the past which could lead to shortages after Dec 31st 2008..

We at Pharmedix, still have a stock of CFC-propelled albuterol inhalers. The current expiration date of said product is 06-2009. Because of the possibility of shortages, we recommend buying as much product as your clients might need to get them over this transitional hump. However, be aware that supplies are limited and are **NOT RETURNABLE**.

Please note the new HFA-propelled albuterol inhalers may taste and feel different than the CFC-propelled albuterol inhalers. The spray of the HFA product also feels softer than the CFC product. The HFA product must also be primed and cleaned to prevent drug buildup in the inhalation device. There are currently three HFA products on the market. Each has a different priming, cleaning and drying instruction—these products are **NOT** interchangeable. Cost will range between \$35-\$45. We at Pharmedix are currently negotiating a lower contract price for HFA-propelled albuterol inhalers.

FDA Fluoroquinolone Antibiotic Warning Increased Risk of Tendinitis and Tendon Rupture

The FDA is issuing a warning about the increased risk of tendinitis and tendon rupture in patients taking oral or injectable fluoroquinolones. Marketed fluoroquinolones include ciprofloxacin (Cipro™), Levofloxacin (Levaquin™), Moxifloxacin (Avelox™), Norfloxacin (Noroxin™) and Ofloxacin (Floxin™). There have been over 260 cases reported; 61% of cases have been reported with Levaquin™.

Tendinitis and tendon rupture most frequently involves the Achilles tendon; however, his problem has also been reported to involve the rotator cuff, the hand, the biceps and the thumb. Tendon rupture can occur during or after the completion of fluoroquinolone use; cases occurring up to several months after the completion of therapy have been reported.

Although the risk of this side effect is extremely low, the risk is increased in people older than 60, in those taking corticosteroids drugs, and in kidney, heart and lung transplant recipients. Patients should be advised that if they experience sudden and severe pain, difficulty walking, swelling, inflammation of a tendon or tendon rupture they should stop taking their fluoroquinolone medication, avoid exercise and use of the affected area and contact their health care professional promptly as to the course of action and switching antibiotics. Fluoroquinolones antibiotics should only be used for the treatment or prevention of infections that are proven or strongly suspected to be caused by bacteria. As always, consider the potential benefit and risks to each individual patient before prescribing any medication.