

**JANUARY
2009**

USING YOUR NEW H.F.A. INHALER

ECSU Student Health Services

Information Regarding Recent Changes

HOTLINE NUMBERS:

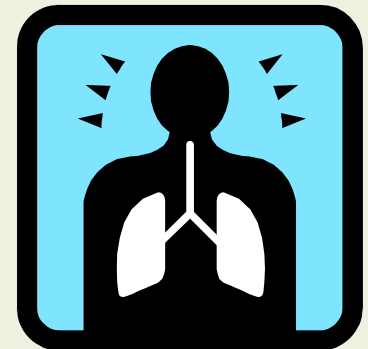
- **ALBUTEROL** metered dose inhalers
- Proventil HFA (Schering-Plough)
877-432-7768
- Ventolin HFA (GlaxoSmithKline)
888-825-5249
- ProAir HFA (IVAX Laboratories)
888-482-9522

- **LEVALBUTEROL** metered dose inhaler
- Xopenex HFA (Sepracor)
888-394-7377

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a public health advisory to alert patients with asthma and other lung conditions about the upcoming change in **albuterol** inhalers.

The old inhalers were propelled by chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) but are now being phased out because of the harm they cause to the environment by contributing to the depletion of the ozone layer. As of 12/31/08 they will no longer be available in the United States.

The new inhalers are propelled by hydrofluoroalkane (HFA) instead. The FDA wants to emphasize that the new HFA-propelled inhalers are a safe and effective replacements for the old CFC inhalers.



What Patients Should Know

Patients should be advised that HFA-propelled inhalers may taste and feel different from the CFC inhalers they used to use. The spray of an HFA inhaler may feel **softer**, making patients think it's not delivering the right amount of medicine.

Patients must also **prime and clean** HFA inhalers. Doing so prevents build-up of the drug in the inhalation device, which can block the medication from reaching the lungs.

Each new HFA inhaler has different priming, cleaning and drying instructions, so check the package insert or call one of the toll-free numbers listed in the column to the left.

The inhaler manufacturers have established these free hotlines for patients affected by the changes. Additionally, the new inhalers may cost more at the pharmacy.

The **Health Service** also has patient info sheets to hand out to students who use inhalers.

BEING KIND TO THE ENVIRONMENT:

The phasing out of CFC-propelled inhalers is a result of the Clean Air Act and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Under the international treaty, the U.S. agreed to phase out production of certain substances. For more information, visit

www.fda.gov/cder/mdi/albuterol.htm

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