



THE PRESCRIBER e-LETTER

Fluticasone HFA Update

Brand Flovent® HFA (fluticasone propionate inhalation aerosol) was discontinued December 31, 2023. MassHealth placed generic fluticasone HFA on prior authorization (PA) for members 5 years of age and older, effective March 4, 2024.

Asmanex HFA Shortage

Fluticasone HFA, Asmanex® HFA, and Alvesco® are the inhaled corticosteroids that can be used with a spacer, which may be preferred in some pediatric patients. Asmanex® HFA remains available to members without PA.

Reports of Asmanex® HFA shortages began in January 2024. Organon, the makers of Asmanex® are regularly releasing inhalers to wholesalers, who have been allocating to pharmacies. A date for full resupply is not yet available.¹

Change in Fluticasone HFA Coverage for MassHealth Members

Due to the limited availability of Asmanex® HFA, **MassHealth will be allowing fluticasone HFA without PA for members younger than 12 years of age, effective April 10th, 2024.** Prior authorization will be required for members 12 years of age and older.

MassHealth Inhaled Corticosteroid Coverage effective April 10th, 2024

Drugs that require PA
Alvesco® HFA (ciclesonide inhaler)
ArmonAir™ Digihaler® (fluticasone propionate)
Asmanex® TwisThaler® (mometasone 100 mcg) ≥ 12 years old
Asmanex® TwisThaler® (mometasone 220 mcg) <12 years old
Fluticasone propionate HFA ≥12 years old
Fluticasone propionate DPI
Pulmicort® Respules® (budesonide suspension) ≥13 years old*
QVAR® RediHaler™ (beclomethasone inhaler)

Drugs that do NOT require PA
Arnuity® Ellipta® (fluticasone furoate)
Asmanex® HFA (mometasone furoate)
Asmanex® TwisThaler® (mometasone 110 mcg) <12 years old
Asmanex® TwisThaler® (mometasone 220 mcg) ≥12 years old
Budesonide inhalation suspension <13 years old <i>Brand name Pulmicort® requires PA</i>
Fluticasone propionate HFA <12 years old
Pulmicort® Flexhaler® (budesonide powder)

*PA required for both brand and generic

Please see [Pharmacy Facts #221](#) for additional clinical resources regarding inhaled corticosteroids.

References:

1. American Society of Hospital Pharmacists. *Drug Shortage Detail: Mometasone Furoate Oral Inhalers*. Accessed 4/8/24. Available from: [Drug Shortage Detail: Mometasone Furoate Oral Inhalers \(ashp.org\)](https://www.ashp.org/Drug-Shortage-Detail-Mometasone-Furoate-Oral-Inhalers).

Legend

- DPI** Dry powder inhaler
- HFA** Hydrofluoroalkane (propellant used in metered dose inhalers)
- PA** Prior authorization is required. The prescriber must obtain prior authorization for the drug for the pharmacy to receive payment. **Note:** PA applies to both the brand-name and the FDA "A"-rated generic equivalent of listed product.

The *Prescriber e-Letter* is an update designed to enhance the transparency and efficiency of the MassHealth drug prior-authorization (PA) process and the MassHealth Drug List. Each issue **highlights** key clinical **information and updates** to the **MassHealth Drug List**. The Prescriber E-Letter was prepared by the MassHealth Drug Utilization Review Program and the MassHealth Pharmacy Program.