



# PHARMACY FACTS

Current information for pharmacists about  
the MassHealth Pharmacy Program

[www.mass.gov/masshealth-pharmacy-facts](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth-pharmacy-facts)

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## Fluticasone HFA Update

Brand Flovent<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> HFA, and Alvesco<sup>®</sup> are 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<sup>®</sup> HFA shortages began in January 2024. Organon, the makers of Asmanex<sup>®</sup>, are regularly releasing inhalers to wholesalers, who have been allocating to pharmacies. A date for full resupply is not yet available.<sup>1</sup>

## Change in Fluticasone HFA Coverage for MassHealth Members

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

## MassHealth Inhaled Corticosteroid Coverage, effective April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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

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

<sup>1</sup> 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).

Drugs that do NOT require PA
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.

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#### 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.