

## Breathe free and protect the environment



Until now, your asthma inhaler has used chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) to propel the medicine out of the inhaler and into your lungs. However, because these CFCs are harmful to the earth's ozone layer, all albuterol inhalers will now use hydrofluoroalkane (HFA) instead of CFCs to push the medicine out of the inhaler.

Replacing the CFCs in your metered-dose inhalers (MDIs) with another substance called hydrofluoroalkane (HFA) will make the environment safer for everyone. Production of CFC inhalers stopped December 2006. No CFC albuterol

inhalers will be sold after December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008. Remember the ALBUTEROL medicine in your inhaler is not changing, only the propellant.

### HFA vs. CFC

#### Similarities of HFA and CFC inhalers

- Same medicine in the inhaler
- Shape is similar
- Size is similar
- Convenient to use

### New HFA inhaler

- Ozone-friendly to the environment
- Might be slightly different in smell and taste
- Mist is less forceful and warmer, but the medicine delivery often is better because "softer" force.
- May need to be cleaned and cared for differently. (These devices should not get wet, don't use the float test!)
- Some of the new "sleeves" need to be rinsed weekly and dried overnight to avoid "caking".

### How do I get an HFA inhaler?

To get an HFA inhaler you will need a new prescription from your physician. Work with your allergist/immunologist to determine which HFA inhaler is right for you. You will not be able to exchange your current CFC inhaler for an HFA inhaler at the pharmacy; a new prescription is required.

Since no HFA **GENERIC** is available, the formulary tier will at least be step 2 (or step 3). Please check your formulary for insurance preferences.