

Asthma Inhalation Devices - Priming and Care Guide

Medication	Rescue/ Maintenance	What it Does	Type	Priming	Cleaning	How to know when to discard
Aerospan ICS	Maintenance	Prevents swelling	MDI	New & if not used for 14 days : 2 test sprays	NO cleaning recommended	Count doses
Atrovent™	Maintenance	Opens airways, prevents constriction	HFA, MDI	New and not used for 3 days: 2 test sprays away from face	Clean sleeve weekly with warm, running water; allow to completely dry before using	Count doses
Advair™ Combo LABA/ICS	Maintenance	Prevents swelling & constriction	Diskus, DPI	No priming necessary	Wipe mouthpiece with dry cloth	Built in counter: numbers turn red when 5 doses left
Advair™	Maintenance	Prevents swelling & constriction	HFA, MDI	New: 4 test sprays away from face shaking well for 5 seconds before each spray. If not used for more that 4 weeks or if dropped; shake for 5 seconds, spray twice into the air.	Remove mouthpiece cap. Clean circular opening where medication comes from with dry cotton swab. Gently twist swab to remove any medicine. Wipe inside of mouthpiece with damp tissue and allow to dry. Do not remove canister from actuator.	Built in counter on some dosages
Alvesco™ ICS	Maintenance	Prevents swelling	HFA, MDI	New and not used for 10 days: 3 test sprays away from face. Note: do not shake.	Clean mouthpiece with clean, dry tissue weekly.	Dose indicator – moves every tenth puff. Turns red when 20 doses remaining.
Asmanex™ ICS	Maintenance	Prevents swelling	Twisthaler, DPI	No Priming necessary	Wipe mouthpiece with dry cloth	Built in counter; cannot remove cap when empty
Combivent™ Combo SABA/Atrovent	Maintenance	Opens airways	CFC, MDI	New and when not used for 24 hours: Shake vigorously for 10 seconds; release 3 test sprays away from face	Clean sleeve weekly with warm, running water; allow to completely dry before using	Count doses
Dulera LABA/ICS	Maintenance	Prevents swelling	MDI	Release 4 test sprays into air; shake well before each spray. Prime if not used for >5 days	Clean by using dry wipe after every 7 days of use	Built in counter
Flovent™ ICS	Maintenance	Prevents swelling	Diskus, DPI	No priming necessary	Wipe mouthpiece with dry cloth	Built in counter: numbers turn red when 5 doses left

Medication	Rescue/ Maintenance	What it Does	Type	Priming	Cleaning	How to know when to discard
Flovent TM ICS	Maintenance	Prevents swelling	HFA, MDI	New: 4 test sprays away from face shaking well for 5 seconds before each spray. Not used for more than 7 days or if dropped: shake well for 5 seconds before each spray and release 1 test spray	Remove mouthpiece cap. Clean circular opening where medication comes from with cotton swab dampened with water. Gently twist swab to remove any medicine; repeat with a clean, damp swab to remove any medicine still at the opening. Wipe inside of mouthpiece with damp tissue and allow to dry. Do not remove canister from actuator.	Built in counter
Proair TM SABA	Rescue	Open airways	HFA, MDI	New and when not used for 2 weeks: 3 test sprays into air away from face	Clean sleeve weekly with warm water, shake, allow to dry before using	Count doses.
Proventil TM SABA	Rescue	Open airways	HFA, MDI	New and when not used for 2 weeks: 4 test sprays	Clean sleeve weekly by running water through, allow to dry before using	Count doses
Pulmicort TM ICS	Maintenance	Prevents swelling	Flexhaler, DPI	When new only: Hold upright, twist and click brown grip at bottom two times.	Wipe mouthpiece with dry cloth	Built in counter
Qvar TM ICS	Maintenance	Prevents swelling	HFA, MDI	New and when not used for 10 days: 2 test sprays	Clean sleeve weekly by running water through, allow to dry before using	Count doses
Serevent TM LABA	Maintenance	Opens airways, Prevents constriction	Diskus, DPI	No priming necessary	Wipe mouthpiece with dry cloth	Built in counter: numbers turn red when 5 doses left
Symbicort TM LABA/ICS	Maintenance	Prevents swelling	HFA, MDI	New, not used for 7 days, or if dropped: Two test sprays, shaking well before each spray.	Wipe inside and outside of mouthpiece with clean, dry cloth. Do not take inhaler apart.	Built in counter Discard 3 months after taken out of foil pouch.
Ventolin HFATM SABA	Rescue	Open airways	MDI	New, not used for 14 days or if dropped. Shake well, 4 sprays away from face;	Clean sleeve weekly by running water through, allow to dry before using	Dose counter. Discard 6 months after taken out of foil pouch
Xopenex TM	Rescue	Open airways	HFA, MDI	New and when not used for 3 days: Shake well and release 4 test sprays.	Clean sleeve weekly by running water through, allow to dry before using	Count doses

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