

Is Your Asthma or COPD Medication Being Discontinued?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration in accordance with the longstanding U.S. obligations under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, seven metered-dosed inhalers (MDI) used to treat asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) will be gradually removed from the U.S. marketplace. These inhalers contain ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which are the propellants that move medication out of the inhaler and into the lungs of patients. Alternative medications that do not contain CFCs are widely available.

The affected products and their phase out schedule include:

<u>Inhaler Medication</u> Name Brand (<i>Generic Name</i>)	<u>Last date to be manufactured, sold or dispensed in the U.S.</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>
Tidale Inhaler (<i>nedocromil</i>)	June 14, 2010	King Pharmaceuticals
Alupent Inhalation Aerosol (<i>metaproterenol</i>)	June 14, 2010	Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals
Azmacort Inhalation Aerosol (<i>triamcinolone</i>)	Dec. 31, 2010	Abbott Laboratories
Intal Inhaler (<i>cromolyn sodium</i>)	Dec. 31, 2010	King Pharmaceuticals
Aerobid Inhaler System (<i>flunisolide</i>)	June 30, 2011	Forest Laboratories
Combivent Inhalation Aerosol (<i>albuterol and ipratropium bromide</i>)	Dec. 31, 2013	Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals
Maxair Autohaler (<i>pirbuterol</i>)	Dec. 31, 2013	Graceway Pharmaceuticals

***Over-the-counter inhaler medications such as *Epinephrine* (**Primatene Mist, AsthmaNefrin**) and *Ephedrine/guaifensin* (**Bronkaid caps, Primatene tabs**) will no longer be manufactured or available to be purchased after December 31, 2011 due to the CFC phase-out.

Health Care Providers should discuss switching medications and other options with their patients several months prior to a particular drug's discontinue/end distribution date as the drug may not be available.

The decision to phase out the products is the latest in a series of decisions related to the removal of CFC inhaler products from the market as required by the Clean Air Act. The agency proposed to phase-out the seven remaining products in 2007 and reached a final decision after reviewing more than 4,000 public comments and information submitted as part of public meeting.