

# Albuterol Inhalation (Proair<sup>®</sup>, Proventil<sup>®</sup>, Ventolin<sup>®</sup>): A Patient & Caregiver Guide

You (or your loved one) are taking a medication called albuterol (brand name Proair<sup>®</sup>, Proventil<sup>®</sup>, or Ventolin<sup>®</sup> for the hand-held inhalers). Albuterol helps open the airways in the lungs to make breathing easier. It also helps treat and prevent spasms in the airways.

Albuterol comes as a hand-held inhaler or a solution that is breathed through a mask called a nebulizer.

## Possible side effects of albuterol:

Seek emergency medical help if you (or your loved one) have any of the following signs of a severe allergic reaction:

- Swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or throat
- Hives (red, raised, itchy skin)
- Difficulty breathing

Contact the hospice team immediately if you or your loved one are experiencing one or more of these serious side effects:

- Chest pain, fast or pounding heartbeats
- Feeling faint/lightheaded, falling
- High blood pressure
- Irregular heartbeat
- Fever
- Muscle cramps or weakness
- Pain, tingling, numbness in the hands or feet
- Vomiting

Potential less serious side effects of using albuterol may include:

- Changes in taste
- Cough
- Dry mouth
- Headache
- Nervousness, trembling
- Stomach upset
- Stuffy or runny nose
- Throat irritation
- Trouble sleeping

## Other things to be aware of when using albuterol:

- Make sure that you (or your loved one) are follow the hospice team's instruction for using the hand-held inhaler or nebulizer. Contact the hospice team for help if you (or your loved one) are unsure how to use the hand-held inhaler or nebulizer.
- If you (or your loved one) need to use more than one puff of the hand-held inhaler per dose, wait at least a minute between each puff.
- Contact the hospice team if your (or your loved one's) symptoms do not improve or get worse.

Reference: *Clinical Pharmacology* last accessed 1.29.24