

# Brightside Specialty Pharmacy

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## Patient Education for FLOVENT HFA 110 MCG INHALER

Shake well before using. If available, dispense patient package insert and explain to pt Not intended to be used as rescue therapy during an acute asthma Gargle and rinse mouth with water after dose. Do not swallow water. Avoid exposure to chicken pox and measles. Call doctor if exposed. Monitor with a peak flow meter. Call MD if breathing worsens. May take 2 weeks for full benefit of therapy. Instruct patient proper administration technique

Shake well before using. If available, read the patient package insert Will not stop an acute asthma attack; Use daily Use water to rinse/gargle and spit out after dose Tell doctor if exposed to chicken pox or measles. Use peak flow meter. Call MD immediately if worse. May take 2 weeks for full benefit of therapy. Know how to use before inhaling

### .....Education Section.....

#### **IMPORTANT:**

**HOW TO USE THIS INFORMATION:** This is a summary and

does NOT have all possible information about this product. This information does not assure that this product is safe, effective, or appropriate for you. This information is not individual medical advice and does not substitute for the advice of your health care professional. Always ask your health care professional for complete information about this product and your specific health needs.

FLUTICASONE HFA INHALER - ORAL INHALATION

(floo-TIK-a-son)

#### **COMMON BRAND NAME(S):**

Flovent HFA

#### **USES:**

Fluticasone is used to control and prevent symptoms (such

as wheezing and shortness of breath) caused by asthma. It works by reducing swelling (inflammation) of the airways in the lungs to make breathing easier. Controlling symptoms of asthma helps you maintain your normal activities and decreases time lost from work or school. Fluticasone belongs to a class of drugs known as corticosteroids.

This medication must be used regularly to be effective. It does not work right away and should not be used to relieve sudden asthma attacks. If an asthma attack occurs, use your quick-relief inhaler (such as albuterol, also called salbutamol in some countries) as prescribed.

#### **OTHER USES:**

This section contains uses of this drug that are not

listed in the approved professional labeling for the drug but that may be prescribed by your health care professional. Use this drug for a condition that is listed in this section only if it has been so prescribed by your health care professional.

Fluticasone may also be used with other medications to control symptoms of ongoing lung disease (such as chronic bronchitis, emphysema, COPD). It may also be used for a certain esophagus problem (eosinophilic esophagitis).

#### **HOW TO USE:**

Read the Patient Information Leaflet that comes with

this product before you start using fluticasone and each time you get a refill. Read the patient instructions on how to use this inhaler properly. If you have any questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Follow the instructions for priming the inhaler if you are using it for the first time, if you have not used it for more than 1 week, or if you dropped the inhaler. When priming the inhaler, make sure to spray away from your face so that you do not get the medication into your eyes.

Shake the inhaler well for 5 seconds before each use. Inhale this medication by mouth as directed by your doctor, usually twice a day (in the morning and evening). The dosage is based on your medical condition and response to treatment.

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you have trouble using this inhaler. Young children may get better results using a spacer device and face mask with this medication.

If two inhalations/puffs are prescribed, wait about 30 seconds between them. Shake the inhaler well between each puff. If you are using other inhalers at the same time, wait at least 1 minute between the use of each medication, and use this drug (the corticosteroid) last.

To prevent dry mouth, hoarseness, and oral yeast infections from developing, gargle, rinse your mouth with water and spit out after each use. Do not swallow the rinse water.

Use this medication regularly to get the most benefit from it. This medication works best if used at evenly spaced intervals. To help you remember, use it at the same times each day. Do not increase your dose, use this medication more often, or stop using it without first consulting your doctor.

If you are regularly taking a different corticosteroid by mouth (such as prednisone), you should not stop taking it unless directed by your doctor. Some conditions (such as asthma, allergies) may become worse when the drug is suddenly stopped. If you suddenly stop taking the drug, you may also have withdrawal symptoms (such as weakness, weight loss, nausea, muscle pain, headache, tiredness, dizziness). To help prevent withdrawal, your doctor may slowly lower the dose of your old medication after you

begin using fluticasone. Tell your doctor or pharmacist right away if you have withdrawal. See also Precautions section.

Clean the inhaler regularly as directed. Keep track of the number of inhalations used. Discard the canister after using the labeled number of inhalations on the package, even if it feels as though there is medication left in the canister.

It may take up to 2 weeks or longer before the full benefit of this drug takes effect. Tell your doctor if your condition does not improve or if it worsens.

Learn which of your inhalers you should use every day (controller drugs) and which you should use if your breathing suddenly worsens (quick-relief drugs). Ask your doctor ahead of time what you should do if you have new or worsening cough or shortness of breath, wheezing, increased sputum, worsening peak flow meter readings, waking up at night with trouble breathing, if you use your quick-relief inhaler more often (more than 2 days a week), or if your quick-relief inhaler does not seem to be working well. Learn when you can treat sudden breathing problems by yourself and when you must get medical help right away.

**SIDE EFFECTS:**

Hoarseness or throat irritation may occur. If

either of these effects lasts or gets worse, tell your doctor or pharmacist promptly.

Remember that this medication has been prescribed because your doctor has judged that the benefit to you is greater than the risk of side effects. Many people using this medication do not have serious side effects.

Tell your doctor right away if you have any serious side effects, including: white patches in your mouth/on your tongue, signs of infection (such as sore throat that doesn't go away, fever, chills, cough), vision problems, increased thirst/urination, easy bruising/bleeding, mental/mood changes (such as depression, mood swings, agitation), bone pain.

Rarely, this medication may cause sudden severe wheezing/trouble breathing immediately after you use it. If this occurs, use your quick-relief inhaler and get medical help right away.

A very serious allergic reaction to this drug is rare. However, get medical help right away if you notice any symptoms of a serious allergic reaction, including: rash, itching/swelling (especially of the face/tongue/throat), severe dizziness, trouble breathing.

This is not a complete list of possible side effects. If you notice other effects not listed above, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

In the US -

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or at [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch).

In Canada - Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to Health Canada at 1-866-234-2345.

**PRECAUTIONS:**

Before using fluticasone, tell your doctor or

pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or if you have any other

allergies. This product may contain inactive ingredients, which can cause allergic reactions or other problems. Talk to your pharmacist for more details.

Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: current/past infections (such as tuberculosis, herpes), certain eye problems (cataracts, glaucoma, herpes infection of the eye), bone loss (osteoporosis), liver disease.

This medication may mask signs of infection. It can make you more likely to get infections or may worsen any current infections. Avoid contact with people who have infections that may spread to others (such as chickenpox, measles, flu). Consult your doctor if you have been exposed to an infection or for more details.

If you have switched from a corticosteroid taken by mouth (such as prednisone tablets) to this inhaler within the past 12 months, or if you have been using this product in higher-than-usual doses for a long time, it may be more difficult for your body to respond to physical stress. Before having surgery or emergency treatment, or if you get a serious illness/injury, tell your doctor or dentist that you are using this medication or have used a corticosteroid taken by mouth within the past 12 months. Tell your doctor right away if you develop unusual/extreme tiredness or weight loss. Carry a warning card or medical ID bracelet that says you use (or have used) corticosteroid medications.

Before having surgery, tell your doctor or dentist about all the products you use (including prescription drugs, nonprescription drugs, and herbal products).

This medication may temporarily slow down a child's growth if used for a long time. However, poorly controlled asthma can also slow down growth. See the doctor regularly so your child's height can be checked.

During pregnancy, this medication should be used only when clearly needed. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor.

It is unknown if this drug passes into breast milk. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

**DRUG INTERACTIONS:**

Drug interactions may change how your

medications work or increase your risk for serious side effects. This document does not contain all possible drug interactions. Keep a list of all the products you use (including prescription/nonprescription drugs and herbal products) and share it with your doctor and pharmacist. Do not start, stop, or change the dosage of any medicines without your doctor's approval.

Other medications can affect the removal of fluticasone from your body, which may affect how fluticasone works. Examples include HIV protease inhibitors (such as lopinavir, ritonavir), some azole antifungals (such as ketoconazole), among others.

**OVERDOSE:**

If someone has overdosed and has serious symptoms such

as passing out or trouble breathing, call 911. Otherwise, call a poison control center right away. US residents can call their local poison control center at 1-800-222-1222. Canada residents can call a provincial poison control center.

**NOTES:**

Do not share this medication with others.

Laboratory and/or medical tests (such as lung function tests, eye exams, bone density tests, cortisol levels) should be performed periodically to monitor your progress or check for side effects. Consult your doctor for more details.

Learn to use a peak flow meter, use it daily, and promptly report signs of worsening asthma (such as readings in the yellow/red range, increased use of quick-relief inhalers).

Avoid allergens/irritants such as smoke, pollen, pet dander, dust, or molds that may worsen asthma. Because the flu virus can also worsen breathing problems, ask your doctor or pharmacist if you should have a flu shot every year.

In adults, this medication can increase the risk of bone loss (osteoporosis) if used for a long time. Talk with your doctor about your risk, and about available treatments for osteoporosis. Lifestyle changes that reduce the risk of bone loss include doing weight-bearing exercise, getting enough calcium and vitamin D, stopping smoking, and limiting alcohol. To help prevent osteoporosis later in life, encourage children to exercise and eat a healthy diet (including calcium).

**MISSED DOSE:**

If you miss a dose, use it as soon as you remember.

If it is near the time of the next dose, skip the missed dose.

Use your next dose at the regular time. Do not double the dose to catch up.

**STORAGE:**

Store at room temperature. Do not puncture or expose

this medication to high heat or open flame. Keep all medications away from children and pets.

Do not flush medications down the toilet or pour them into a drain unless instructed to do so. Properly discard this product when it is expired or no longer needed. Consult your pharmacist or local waste disposal company.

**MEDICAL ALERT:**

Your condition can cause complications in a

medical emergency. For information about enrolling in MedicAlert, call 1-888-633-4298 (US) or 1-800-668-1507 (Canada).

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