



INLAND EMPIRE HEALTH PLAN

PHARMACY TIMES

BY IEHP PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

November 18, 2009

Formulary Change – Albuterol HFA Inhalers

Dear IEHP Providers,

This letter has been sent as a notice that effective **November 18th 2009** the following change was made to the formulary approved by IEHP’s Pharmacy and Therapeutics Subcommittee.

The new preferred product for Albuterol HFA Inhalers is now **Ventolin HFA Inhaler[®] (albuterol)**. Providers must use Ventolin HFA Inhalers[®] for all approved Albuterol HFA requests. Non-formulary albuterol HFA products such as ProAir HFA and Proventil HFA will no longer be covered products.

Formulary Products	Non-Formulary Products
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ventolin HFA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ProAir HFA • Proventil HFA

Please Note: According to California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 1700 et seq. Article 4 Section 4073. Substitution of Generic Drug – Requirements and Exceptions (a):

A pharmacist filling a prescription order for a drug product prescribed by its trade or brand name may select another drug product with the same active chemical ingredients of the same strength, quantity, and dosage form, and of the same generic drug name as determined by the United States Adopted Names (USAN) and accepted by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA), of those drug products having the same active chemical ingredients.

Since all Albuterol HFA products have similar ingredients (albuterol) and administration, pharmacists should not submit Pharmacy Exception Requests (PERS) for ProAir HFA or Proventil HFA. They will be returned as submission error. Please dispense Ventolin HFA.

If you have any questions regarding the change, please feel free to contact me at 909-890-2067.

Sincerely,

Chris Chan, Pharm.D.
Director, Pharmaceutical Services
Inland Empire Health Plan