

Asthma medicines

You and your child should know the name of each medicine your child is taking. Each person's asthma is different and medicines that help one person may not help another. Always use medicines in the amount and method prescribed. Always make sure you have enough medicines on hand.

| Quick acting inhaled bronchodilators (rescue or reliever medicines) | | | |
|---|--------------|--|---|
| Brand name | Generic name | Things to know | Side effects |
| Maxair® | pirbuterol | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opens airways by relaxing the muscles around the airways • Should be used first if other inhalers are taken at the same time • Try to wait 1 minute between puffs to let the first puff begin working. • These medicines start working in about 5 minutes and last 4 to 6 hours. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaky hands, "hyper" feeling, fast heartbeat, headache • Side effects usually only last a short time. They will probably go away after using the medicine regularly. • Call doctor if the side effects are too bothersome or do not stop. |
| Proventil® HFA | albuterol | | |
| Ventolin® | | | |
| Xopenex® | levalbuterol | | |

| Long-acting inhaled bronchodilators (controllers) | | | |
|---|--------------|--|--|
| Brand name | Generic name | Things to know | Side effects |
| Foradil® | formoterol | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opens airways by relaxing muscles around the airways • Take about 12 hours apart. Do not take more than twice a day. • Never use to relieve symptoms. • Should also be on an inhaled corticosteroid | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as above. |
| Serevent® | salmeterol | | |

| Inhaled corticosteroids (controllers) | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---|--|
| Brand name | Generic name | Things to know | Side effects |
| Azmacort® | triamcinolone | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevents swelling, inflammation, and mucus inside the airways • Continue using this medicine every day to prevent episodes • Do not stop taking this medicine until the doctor tells you to stop. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hoarseness • Possible thrush; rinse mouth and spit after each use to prevent it. • Must be used with a spacer (except if using a dry powder inhaler) |
| Azmanex® | mometasone | | |
| Flovent® | fluticasone | | |
| Pulmicort® | budesonide | | |
| QVAR® | beclomethasone | | |

| Inhaled corticosteroid / Long-acting bronchodilator combinations (controllers) | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---|---|
| Brand name | Generic name | Things to know | Side effects |
| Advair® | fluticasone and salmeterol | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevents swelling, inflammation, and mucus inside the airways. Opens airways by relaxing muscles around them. Take every day to prevent episodes. Do not stop taking this medicine until the doctor tells you to stop. Never use it to relieve symptoms. Take doses about 12 hours apart. Do not take more than twice a day. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hoarseness Possible thrush; rinse mouth and spit after each use to prevent it. |
| Symbicort® | budesonide and formoterol | | |

| Inhaled anti-inflammatory medicines (controllers) | | | |
|---|--------------|---|---|
| Brand name | Generic name | Things to know | Side effects |
| Intal® | cromolyn | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevents inflammation by stabilizing cells that line the airway; blocks the reaction to triggers. Take every day to prevent episodes. Do not take more than 4 times daily. Do not stop taking this medicine until your doctor tells you to stop. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Side effects are very rare. |
| Tilade® | nedocromil | | |

| Leukotriene receptor antagonist (controller) | | | |
|--|--------------|---|--|
| Brand name | Generic name | Things to know | Side effects |
| Singulair® | montelukast | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevents swelling, inflammation, and mucus. Take every day to prevent episodes. Never use to relieve symptoms. Do not stop taking this medicine until your doctor tells you to stop. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Headache or stomachache Call the doctor if flu-like symptoms occur. |

| Oral corticosteroids | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|---|---|
| Brand name | Generic name | Things to know | Side effects |
| Orapred® Pediapred® Prelone® | prednisolone | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreases swelling, inflammation, and mucus inside the airways Take exactly as prescribed by your doctor Starts to work in 6 to 12 hours | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased appetite, stomachache, mood changes, fluid retention, flushed face, perhaps temporary joint pain after it is stopped. Long-term use may cause other side effects; talk to your doctor. Take with food or milk to avoid stomachache. |
| (various brands) | prednisone | | |

Questions?

This sheet is not specific to your child, but provides general information. If you have any questions, please call the clinic or pharmacy.