

**TO:** GP Surgeries/Retail Pharmacies  
Maori and Pacific Health Providers  
Asthma Educators

Level 14, Cigna House,

40 Mercer Street

**FROM:** PHARMAC

P O Box 10-254, Wellington

NEW ZEALAND

**SUBJECT:** Supply changes to salbutamol.

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**DATE:** Wednesday, 8 June 2005

**NO. OF PAGES:** 1 (including this page)

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Dear Health Professional

### **Supply Changes to Salbutamol**

The PHARMAC Board has decided to subsidise both Salamol and Ventolin inhalers at the same level. From 1 July 2005 all brands of salbutamol will be reference priced to the level of Salamol, \$4.00 (ex manufacturer excluding GST) per 100 mcg aerosol inhaler. A manufacturer's surcharge may apply to brands other than Salamol.

We have listened to the concerns of patients and health professionals and as a result both products will remain available giving patients a choice in salbutamol inhaler.

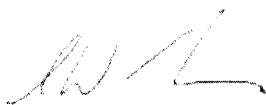
Salamol was found to be safe and effective by Medsafe in its original registration evaluation. We have asked Medsafe to retest the inhalers and this work is on-going. We will await Medsafe's report which will be released by them.

It is important to note that **all** CFC free inhalers have a tendency to build up deposits around the nozzle affecting the consistency of dose delivered. It is important to advise patients to wash their inhalers regularly and to shake their inhalers prior to use.

PHARMAC will be supplying information that can help you explain these changes to your patients prior to the 1 July 2005 implementation. This will be distributed to all pharmacies, GP surgeries, Maori and Pacific health providers and asthma educators over the coming weeks.

If you have further questions regarding the changes to supply of salbutamol inhalers, please phone the PHARMAC help line on 0800 66 00 50 (9am to 4pm weekdays), or e-mail [asthma@pharmac.govt.nz](mailto:asthma@pharmac.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



Wayne McNee  
Chief Executive