

BC Health Authorities Provincial Drug Shortage Memo

Date: December 20, 2024

PLEASE POST

Drug:

Salbutamol nebulas (all formats) – 2.5 mg/2.5mL and 5 mg/2.5mL

Classification:

β2-agonist bronchodilator

Indication:

Treatment of bronchospasm

Duration:

Salbutamol 2.5 mg/2.5 mL nebulas are on backorder from Pharmascience until late February 2025 and from Teva with no known resolution date. Salbutamol 5 mg/2.5 mL nebulas are available on very limited supply until mid-January 2025. Supply of this format will not be able to cover the shortage of the other formats. NH pharmacy currently has approximately 4-5 weeks supply of 2.5 mg/2.5 mL nebulas and several months supply of 5 mg/2.5 mL nebulas remaining based on historic usage.

Practice Implications:

Salbutamol metered dose inhalers (MDI) continue to be available. Due to the prolonged duration of this shortage, **please reserve and prioritize salbutamol nebulas exclusively for:**

- Pediatric patients who cannot use the MDI.
- Adult patients with status asthmaticus that require continuous salbutamol treatment.
- Patients recently extubated but demonstrating poor inspiratory effort and unable to use MDI + spacer.

Unless salbutamol MDIs are used in place of nebulas wherever possible, supplies of the nebulas will run out. Please refer to table below for nebulas to MDI dosage conversion for adult dosing ([refer to pediatric resources for pediatric dosing guidelines](#)).

salbutamol nebulas dosage	recommended salbutamol 100mcg/dose MDI conversion (adult)
salbutamol 2.5 mg/2.5mL (2.5 mg)	2 puffs
salbutamol 5 mg/2.5mL (5 mg)	4 puffs

Available Alternatives*:

- Salbutamol 100 mcg metered dose inhaler
- Salbutamol 5 mg/mL X 10 mL inhaled solution (not available at all sites; contact pharmacy as needed)

*Alternative(s) are provided for clinician information and may not be appropriate for all clinical situations. The information provided does not replace clinician judgment.

Contact Information:

Please contact NH Medication Use Management Pharmacists if there are any questions:

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