



Albuterol Shortage and Emergency Medical Services

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Recent disruptions in the supply chain have resulted in a shortage of Albuterol Inhalation Solution. To attempt to mitigate this shortage, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy and the Ohio Department of Public Safety are issuing this special notice for emergency medical service personnel and hospitals.

If an EMS agency is treating a patient with albuterol via a metered dose inhaler, the albuterol metered dose inhaler may be transferred with the patient to the hospital for continued use in the institutional setting and may also be transferred to the patient at the time of discharge. Hospitals that receive a metered dose inhaler from EMS must apply a label to the medication that includes a patient-specific identifier (e.g., patient name or another appropriate identifier).

If a hospital prescriber wants the patient to continue using albuterol and writes the order to send the metered dose inhaler home with the patient, the prescriber or pharmacy must comply with the requirements for outpatient dispensing or personally furnishing (labeling, recordkeeping, offer of counseling, instructions for use, etc.).

To help meet demand, FDA has reiterated that outsourcing facilities may compound the specific product that's in shortage to help increase supply. For more information on outsourcing facilities licensed by the Board of Pharmacy, visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/shortage.

