



## Uniform Formulary Medical Necessity Criteria for Short Acting Beta Agonists

**Drug Class** - Short Acting Beta Agonists

**Background** - After evaluating the relative clinical and cost effectiveness of the Short Acting Beta Agonists, the DoD P&T Committee has recommended that the following medications be designated as non-formulary under the Uniform Formulary. These recommendations have been approved by the Director, TMA.

**Effective Date:** 8 April 2009

- Pirbuterol inhaler (Maxair)
- Metaproterenol nebulizer solution (Alupent and generics)

Patients currently using a non-formulary short acting beta agonist may wish to ask their doctor to consider a formulary alternative.

### Uniform Formulary Status, Cost Shares, and Therapeutic Alternatives for Short Acting Beta Agonists

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Uniform Formulary Status	Medication	Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) cost share for up to a 90 day supply	Mail Order cost share for up to a 90 day supply	Retail Network cost share for up to a 30 day supply
Non-Formulary (Tier 3)	Maxair Alupent/generics	Not available <sup>2</sup>	Non-Formulary cost share applies	Non-Formulary cost share applies
Formulary: Brand Name (Tier 2)	Ventolin HFA Proventil HFA ProAir HFA Xopenex HFA Xopenex Nebilizer solution Accuneb	\$0	Formulary (Brand) cost share applies	Formulary (Brand) cost share applies
Formulary: Generic (Tier 1)	Albuterol nebulizer solution	\$0	Generic cost share applies	Generic cost share applies
<p>1. Active duty cost share always \$0 in all points of service for all three tiers; active duty service members may not fill prescriptions for a non-formulary medication unless it is determined to be medically necessary.</p> <p>2. MTFs will be able to fill non-formulary requests for non-formulary medications only if both of the following conditions are met: 1) a MTF provider writes the prescription, and 2) medical necessity is established for the non-formulary</p>				

medication. MTFs may (but are not required to) fill a prescription for a non-formulary medication written by a non-MTF provider to whom the patient was referred, as long as medical necessity has been established.

### **Medical Necessity Criteria for Short acting Beta Agonists**

The non-formulary cost share for Maxair inhaler, and Alupent or metaproterenol nebulized solution may be reduced to the formulary cost share IF one or more of the following criteria are met:

1. Use of ALL of the following formulary short acting beta agonists is contraindicated: Ventolin HFA, Proventil HFA, ProAir HFA, Xopenex HFA, Xopenex nebulizer solution, Accuneb nebulizer solution, or albuterol nebulizer solution.
2. The patient has experienced or is likely to experience significant adverse effects from ALL of the following formulary short acting beta agonists: Ventolin HFA, Proventil HFA, ProAir HFA, Xopenex HFA, Xopenex nebulizer solution, Accuneb nebulizer solution, or albuterol nebulizer solution.
3. The patient previously responded to non formulary agent and changing to ALL of the following formulary agent would incur unacceptable risk: Ventolin HFA, Proventil HFA, ProAir HFA, Xopenex HFA, Xopenex nebulizer solution, Accuneb nebulizer solution, or albuterol nebulizer solution.

Criteria recommended by the DoD Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee at the November 2008 meeting & approved by the Director, TMA on 2 Feb 2009. For more information, please see the November 2008 [DoD P&T Committee minutes](#).

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