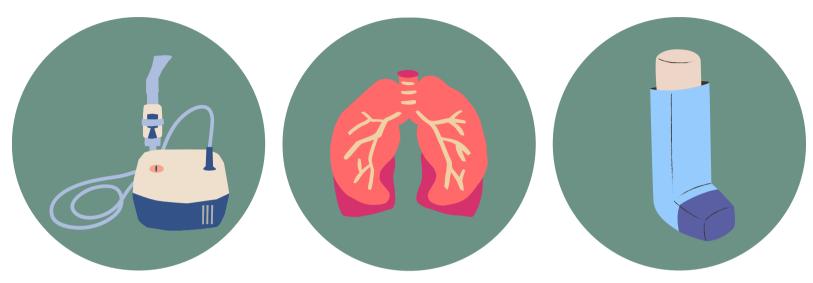
Asthma Newsletter

Thank you for your partnership with the Children's Mercy Asthma Program!

The goal of this newsletter is to provide asthma updates twice a year to our hospital and community partners.



Updates in Asthma Medications

Please see Children's Mercy <u>Asthma Reference Guide</u> for further education on Asthma Management and resources at Children's Mercy.

May is Asthma Awareness Month

- The U.S. Environmental Protection
 Agency has shared resources for
 planning asthma awareness events.
 World Asthma Day is May 6, 2025!
 - https://www.epa.gov/asthma/ast hma-awareness-month





Dr. Jade Tam-Williams is a Star!

 Asthma colleagues always knew Dr. Jade was a great provider to our patients and an amazing co-worker. In January 2025 however, Children's Mercy officially named her a 'Shining Star of Patient Experience' - we are so proud of Dr. Jade!

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Recalls and Shortages - 11

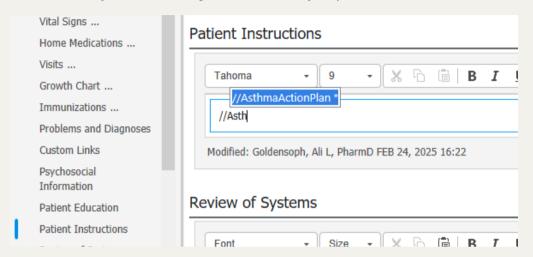


Asthma Auto Text

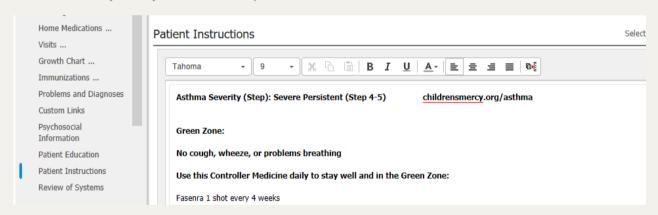
• Providers can now add the Asthma Action Plan to Provider Documentation and to Depart documentation using a Global Auto-text: //AsthmaActionPlan

How to add the Asthma Action Plan Smart Template to your depart and provider documentation:

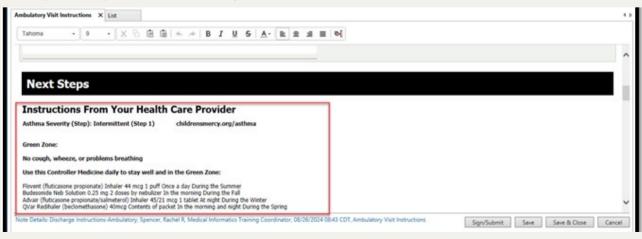
 We will use the example of inserting the Global Auto-text //AsthmaActionPlan into the discharge instructions (remember you can use this global auto-text in your provider note as well)



· Click Enter on your keyboard and it will present the Asthma Action Plan



• Then open up your discharge instructions and it will be present in the Patient Instructions Section. You can also put this in your clinical note using the same auto-text //AsthmaActionPlan



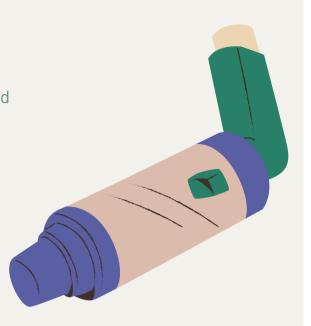
Spacer Coverage

Not all insurance companies cover spacers for our patients. This is because spacers are often considered to be 'over-the-counter' thus allows insurance companies to avoid paying for these devices

2 out of 3 major Kansas Medicaid programs do not

2 out of 3 major Kansas Medicaid programs do not currently cover spacers.

One way to circumvent this is to write orders for spacers as DME (durable medical equiptment) prescriptions. This may help get coverage for your patients needing spacers.



Patient Referrals

We are seeing an increase in outpatient referrals to both allergy clinic and pulmonology clinic for the same concern of asthma. This leads to patients being seen twice by the two different providers and increases patient wait time until they can be seen in clinic. Here is some guidance on which patients to refer to which department.

Allergy Clinic

Patients with clear signs of atopic disease (e.g. Eczema, Food allergy, anaphylaxis to foods, allergic rhinitis with itchy nose) should be seen in Allergy Clinic

Pulmonary Clinic

Patients with a history of hypoxemia, chronic lung disease of prematurity, systemic disease processes (e.g. rheumatologic or autoimmune disease), concern for anatomical abnormalities or malformation in the respiratory system (e.g. Tracheomalacia, scoliosis) should be seen in Pulmonary clinic.

AAIR Clinic

Patients with a history of severe refractory asthma using Step 4 or 5 of treatment AND uncontrolled or having experienced a life-threatening event, should first be referred to general Allergy or Pulmonary clinic for diagnostic evaluation.

Then, if found appropriate, an internal referral can be placed for AAIR clinic for refractory asthma.

INHALER PRICE CAPS

Drug companies <u>Boehringer Ingelheim</u>, <u>AstraZeneca</u> and <u>GSK</u> have announced they are capping out-of-pocket costs for their inhaler products at \$35 per month.

Boehringer Ingelheim inhalers affected by the price cap include:

- Atrovent® HFA (ipratropium bromide HFA) Inhalation Aerosol
- Combivent® Respimat® (ipratropium bromide and albuterol)
 Inhalation Spray
- Spiriva® HandiHaler® (tiotropium bromide inhalation powder)
- Spiriva® Respimat® 1.25 mcg (tiotropium bromide) Inhalation Spray
- Spiriva® Respimat® 2.5 mcg (tiotropium bromide) Inhalation Spray
- Stiolto® Respimat® (tiotropium bromide and olodaterol)
 Inhalation Spray
- Striverdi® Respimat® (olodaterol) Inhalation Spray

AstraZeneca inhalers affected by the price cap include:

- AIRSUPRA® (albuterol and budesonide)
- Bevespi Aerosphere® (glycopyrrolate and formoterol fumarate) Inhalation Aerosol
- Breztri Aerosphere® (budesonide, glycopyrrolate, and formoterol fumarate) Inhalation Aerosol
- Symbicort® (budesonide and formoterol fumarate dihydrate)
 Inhalation Aerosol

GSK inhalers affected by the price cap include:

- Advair Diskus (fluticasone propionate and salmeterol inhalation powder)
- Advair HFA (fluticasone propionate and salmeterol inhalation aerosol)
- Anoro Ellipta (umeclidinium and vilanterol inhalation powder)
- Arnuity Ellipta (fluticasone furoate inhalation powder)
- Breo Ellipta (fluticasone furoate and vilanterol inhalation powder)
- Incruse Ellipta (umeclidinium inhalation powder)
- Serevent Diskus (salmeterol xinafoate inhalation powder)
- Trelegy Ellipta (fluticasone furoate, umeclidinium, and vilanterol inhalation powder)
- Ventolin HFA (albuterol sulfate inhalation aerosol)



Price caps for
Boehringer Ingelheim
and AstraZeneca
inhalers went into effect
in June, 2024. GSK
implemented their price
caps in **January**, **2025**.

Government restrictions

exclude people enrolled
in federal government
insurance programs
from co-pay support.

Commercially insured and un-insured patients **must enroll** in co-pay card programs to utilize these savings.

Children's Mercy price cap guide (updated 02/2025)



Medication access and co pay assistance programs (updated 06/2024)





On April 5, 2024, benralizumab was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) down to the age of 6.

ASTHMA BIOLOGICS

What are biologic treatments?

Biologic drugs (or biologics) are medicines made by living things, such as animals, plants, or bacteria. Many of these biologics are antibodies, which are proteins that are designed to block specific molecules in the human body.

Asthma biologics work by disrupting cells or blocking specific molecules that trigger inflammation.

Biologics Available for Asthma

	OMALIZUMAB (XOLAIR)	MEPOLIZUMAB (NUCALA)	BENRALIZUMAB (FASENRA)	RESLIZUMAB (CINQAIR)	DUPILUMAB (DUPIXENT)	TEZEPELUMAB- EKKO (TEZSPIRE)
Molecule/ Target	IgE/Anti-IgE monoclonal antibody	IL-5/Anti-IL-5 monoclonal antibody	IL-5 receptor/ Anti-IL-5 receptor monoclonal antibody	IL-5/An- ti-IL-5 monoclonal antibody	IL-4 and IL-13/ Anti-IL-4R alpha monoclonal antibody	TSLP/Anti-TSLP monoclonal antibody
Age Approved for Asthma Indication	6+	6+	6+	18+	6+*	12+
Asthma Indication	Moderate- to-severe persistent asthma and a positive skin test or in vitro reactivity to a perennial aeroallergen (allergic asthma)	Severe eosinophilic asthma	Severe eosinophilic asthma	Severe eosinophilic asthma	Moderate- to-severe eosinophilic asthma and OCS- dependent asthma	Severe asthma
Mode of Administration	Subcutaneous injection (shot)	Subcutaneous injection (shot)	Subcutaneous injection (shot)	Intravenous infusion (IV)	Subcutaneous injection (shot)	Subcutaneous injection (shot)
Setting of Administration	Clinic or home	Clinic or home	Clinic or home	Clinic	Clinic or home	Clinic or home
Dosing Interval	Every two to four weeks	Every four weeks	Every four weeks for the first 3 doses, and then every 8 weeks thereafter	Every four weeks	Every two to four weeks	Every four weeks

Abbreviations used: immunoglobulin-E (IgE), interleukin (IL), oral corticosteroids (OCS), thymic stromal lymphopoietin (TSLP)

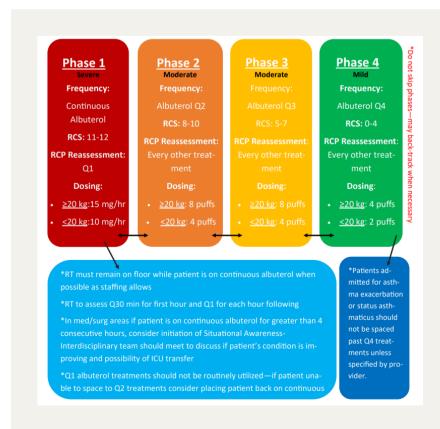
*DUPIXENT is also approved for moderate-to-severe atopic dermaitis (eczema) for those 6months and older and is approved for patients with eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE) who are 1 year and older.

Bronchodilator Weaning Protocol

In July 2022 a new Bronchodilator Weaning Protocol was shared with Children's Mercy providers

Key Points

- 1. Since going live in July of 2022 a decrease in hospital length of stay has been observed annually.
- 2. Respiratory therapists use this protocol to provide albuterol treatments using weight-based dosing.
- 3. Patients < 20 kg receive 10 mg/hr continuous albuterol.
- 4. Patients ≥20 kg receive 15 mg/hr continuous albuterol.20 mg/hr can be used for patients ≥ 20 kg in ED/ICU only.
- 5. Patients <20 kg receive 4 puffs of albuterol once spaced to every 2 and 3 hours, and 2 puffs once spaced 4 hours apart
- 6. Patients \geq 20 kg receive 8 puffs of albuterol once spaced every 2 and 3 hours, then 4 puffs once spaced apart 4 hours.
- 7. Respiratory therapists perform assessments and assign a respiratory care score every hour while patients are on continuous, and every other treatment once spaced every 2 hours to assess for readiness to wean.
- 8. Phases cannot be skipped (i.e. Cannot be spaced from every 2 hours to every 4 hours).



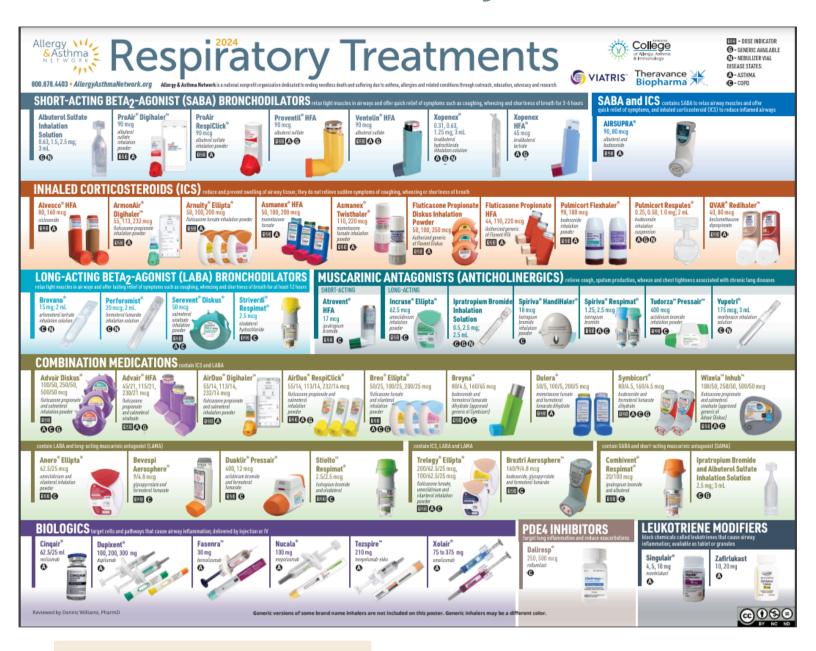
Respiratory therapists utilize the Respiratory Care Plan (RCP) to assign patients a score based on factors such as pulmonary history, respiratory rate, work of breathing, wheezing, oxygen requirements, etc.

Since implementation of this protocol, Children's Mercy Hospital has observed a decrease in the average asthma admission length of stay from 2.00 days to 1.81 days since implementation in July 2022.

Link to the full weaning protocol can be found here:



2024 Quick References for Prescribing









Kansas Medicaid Preferred Products

Key: Drug Class - Month and Year Updated

Short acting beta adrenergic agents (SABA) - 12/2024

Preferred	Non-Preferred, Prior Authorization Required
AccuNeb® (albuterol)	ProAir® Digihaler™(albuterol)
ProAir HFA® (albuterol)	ProAir RespiClick® (albuterol)
Proventil® HFA (albuterol)	Xopenex® (levalbuterol) Inhalation Solution
Proventil® (albuterol) Inhalation Solution	Xopenex HFA® (levalbuterol)
Ventolin HFA® (albuterol)	
Ventolin® (albuterol) Inhalation Solution	

Inhaled corticosteroids (ICS) - 12/2024

Preferred	Non-Preferred, Prior Authorization Required
Arnuity Ellipta® (fluticasone)	Aerospan® (flunisolide)
Asmanex® (mometasone)	Alvesco® (ciclesonide)
Flovent® Diskus® (fluticasone)	ArmonAir® Digihaler® (fluticasone)
Flovent® HFA (fluticasone)	ArmonAir™ RespiClick® (fluticasone)
Pulmicort Flexhaler™ (budesonide)	Asmanex® HFA (mometasone)
Pulmicort Respules® (budesonide)	
QVAR® (beclomethasone)	
QVAR RediHaler®(beclomethasone)	

Long acting beta adrenergic (LABA) + ICS - 12/2024

Preferred	Non-Preferred, Prior Authorization Required
Advair Diskus® (fluticasone/salmeterol)	Airduo® Digihaler® (fluticasone/salmeterol)
Advair® HFA (fluticasone/salmeterol)	Airduo® Respiclick® (fluticasone/salmeterol)
Breo Ellipta® (fluticasone/vilanterol)	
Dulera® (formoterol/mometasone)	
Symbicort® (budesonide/formoterol)	

Leuokotriene receptor modifiers - 12/2024

Preferred	Non-Preferred, Prior Authorization Required
Singulair® (montelukast Sodium) tabs	Accolate® (zafirlukast) tabs
	Singulair® (montelukast Sodium) packs
	Zyflo® (zileuton) tabs
	Zyflo CR™ (zileuton) tabs

Immunomodulation agents - 12/2024

Preferred	Non-Preferred, Prior Authorization Required
Dupixent® (dupilumab)	Cinqair® (reslizumab)
Nucala® (mepolizumab)	Fasenra™ (benralizumab)
Xolair® (omalizumab)	Tezspire® (tezepelumab) autoinjector, syringe



Missouri Medicaid Preferred Products - 1

Key: Drug Class - Month and Year Updated

Short acting beta adrenergic agents (SABA) - 07/2024

Preferred Agents	Non-Preferred Agents
Ventolin® HFA	 Albuterol HFA (gen ProAir® HFA)
	 Albuterol HFA (gen Proventil® HFA)
	 Albuterol HFA (gen Ventolin® HFA)
	Levalbuterol HFA
	 ProAir® Digihaler®
	 ProAir® RespiClick®
	Proventil® HFA
	Xopenex HFA®

Nebulized SABA - 07/2024

Preferred Agents	Non-Preferred Agents	
Albuterol Sulfate	Levalbuterol	
	Xopenex®	

Inhaled corticosteroids (ICS) - 07/2024

Preferred Agents	Non-Preferred Agents
Advair Diskus® Arnuity® Ellipta® Asmanex® Twisthaler Budesonide Respules Dulera® 100 mcg/5 mcg, 200 mcg/5 mcg Flovent HFA® Fluticasone Propionate HFA Symbicort®	 Advair HFA® AirDuo® Digihaler® Airsupra® Alvesco® ArmonAir® Digihaler® Asmanex® HFA* Breo® Ellipta® Breyna™ Budesonide/Formoterol (gen Symbicort®) Dulera® 50 mcg/5 mcg* Flovent Diskus® Fluticasone Propionate Diskus Fluticasone/Salmeterol (gen Advair Diskus®/HFA®, AirDuo®) Fluticasone/Vilanterol (gen Breo® Ellipta®) Pulmicort® Flexhaler Pulmicort® Respules QVAR® Redihaler® Wixela Inhub®



Missouri Medicaid Preferred Products - 2

Drug Class - Month and Year Updated

Leuokotriene receptor modifiers - 07/2024

Preferred Agents	Non-Preferred Agents
Montelukast	Accolate®
	Singulair®
	Zafirlukast
	Zileuton ER
	Zyflo®

Targeted immune modulators - 01/2025

	Preferred Agents	Non-Preferred Agents
•	Adbry™	Dupixent®
•	Cinqair®	Nucala®
•	Fasenra®	Tezspire [™]
•	Xolair [®]	

Preferred spacers - 09/2024

Device	NDC
ACE AEROSOL CLOUD ENHANCER	49502020301
AEROCHAMBER PLUS FLOW-VU SMALL	00456074413
AEROCHAMBER PLUS FLOW-VU MED	00456074513
AEROCHAMBER PLUS FLOW-VU LARGE	04351050412 00456074613
AEROCHAMBER PLUS FLOW-VU	00456315467
BREATHERITE MDI SPACER	11391030200
COMPACT SPACE CHAMBER	42135010000
EASIVENT HOLDING CHAMBER	49502020701
EASIVENT HOLDING CHAMBER	49502020725
MICROCHAMBER	47360017202
MICROSPACER	47360017201
OPTICHAMBER DIAMOND	08373747800
OPTICHAMBER DIAMOND SMALL	08373982300
OPTICHAMBER DIAMOND MEDIUM	08373982600
OPTICHAMBER DIAMOND LARGE	08373982700
PROCHAMBER HOLDING CHAMBER	08373917700



Shortages and Recalls - No Additions since 2024

Shortages

Albuterol Sulfate, Solution, 2.5 mg/.5 mL (NDC 0487-9901-30).

Effective since 10/25/22. Nephron Pharmaceuticals cite limited availability and delays in shipping drug product as reasons for the shortage.



Recalls

Cipla Albuterol Sulfate Inhalation Aerosol, 90 mcg (200 Metered Inhalation).

Recalled due to failure to deliver the recommended dose. There were no adverse events reported for Albuterol Sulfate Inhalation Aerosol 90 mcg related to this recall.

The product is packaged in 17ml plain aluminum aerosol canister integrated with dose counter coupled with plastic actuator and dust cap, each pack claims 200 metered inhalations and associated codes NDC-69097-142-60. The company is initiating a recall in the U.S. due to a market complaint for one single inhaler (Batch Number - IB20056), where leakage was observed through the inhaler valve. Out of an abundance of precaution, the below 6 batches manufactured using the same lot of valves are being recalled.

Sr. No.	Product Name	Batch No.	Expiry Date
1.	Albuterol Sulfate Inhalation Aerosol, 90 mcg (200 MI)	IB20045	Nov.2023
2.	Albuterol Sulfate Inhalation Aerosol, 90 mcg (200 MI)	IB20055	Nov.2023
3.	Albuterol Sulfate Inhalation Aerosol, 90 mcg (200 MI)	IB20056	Nov.2023
4.	Albuterol Sulfate Inhalation Aerosol, 90 mcg (200 MI)	IB20057	Nov.2023
5.	Albuterol Sulfate Inhalation Aerosol, 90 mcg (200 MI)	IB20059	Nov.2023
6.	Albuterol Sulfate Inhalation Aerosol, 90 mcg (200 MI)	IB20072	Nov.2023