

MEMO

TO: YNHHS MEDICAL AND PHARMACY STAFF
FROM: OUTPATIENT PHARMACY SERVICES
SUBJECT: ALBUTEROL HFA DISPENSING FOR CT MEDICAID PATIENTS
DATE: MARCH 31, 2020

Situation:

CT Medicaid patients are having difficulty filling their Albuterol HFAs at retail pharmacies due to current drug shortages.

Background:

Albuterol HFAs are currently available as both brand (e.g. ProAir®) and generic products. These products are not AB rated; therefore, they are not interchangeable without provider approval.

Some generic albuterol products are currently in short supply, however the brand ProAir® inhaler is currently available for pharmacies to order and is covered by CT Medicaid.

Assessment:

ProAir® albuterol inhalers are covered by CT Medicaid and available for pharmacies to order.

Recommendations:

Due to the current backorder of generic albuterol HFA inhalers, the following is recommended for CT Medicaid patients:

1. New albuterol HFA prescriptions for CT Medicaid patients should be written as ProAir® “Brand Medically Necessary”.
2. If a pharmacy or patient reports that an existing albuterol HFA prescription requires prior authorization or is not available, the pharmacy should be instructed to fill the prescription as ProAir®.