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30 May 2023

This letter and any links and attachments are intended solely for the use of the Australian healthcare professional to whom they are addressed.

Re: Anticipated supply shortage of Ventolin Nebules (salbutamol sulfate) 2.5mg/2.5mL inhalation solution ampoules

Dear Healthcare Professional,

We are writing to inform you of an anticipated supply shortage of Ventolin Nebules (salbutamol sulfate) 2.5 mg/2.5 mL inhalation solution ampoules that may affect your ability to prescribe, administer or supply the product to your patients. The anticipated out-of-stock period is from **August 2023** to **June 2024**. Please note that this anticipated supply shortage does not apply to Ventolin Nebules 5.0 mg/2.5 mL inhalation ampoules or any other Ventolin product.

Ventolin Nebules are indicated for the relief of bronchospasm in patients with asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and for acute prophylaxis against exercise-induced asthma or in other situations known to induce bronchospasm.¹

The Australian Asthma Handbook includes salbutamol 2.5 mg nebulas in the management of acute asthma in children.² In the Lung Foundation Australia COPDX-Plan salbutamol 2.5 mg nebulas may be used in the management of COPD exacerbations.³

The supply shortage is the result of an unexpected increase in patient demand and limited scope to adjust the manufacturing capacity to meet this demand. There are no quality concerns with the nebulas currently supplied in Australia. We understand that this may be concerning for you and your patients. We are providing as much notice as possible to allow for planning, alternate treatment selection, prescribing, patient counselling and obtaining stock to minimise disruption to patient care.

GSK recognises that not all patients will be able to use an alternative treatment to Ventolin Nebules 2.5 mg. In the interest of maintaining stock for patients who have no alternative, for as long as possible, please consider:

- Prescribing alternative treatments for patients where clinically appropriate, for example salbutamol metered dose inhaler (MDI) with the usage of a spacer (and mask if appropriate).
- De-escalation from nebulas to an alternative bronchodilator (e.g. MDI) as soon as is clinically appropriate for patients that require Ventolin Nebules 2.5 mg for an acute episode.
- Only prescribing the necessary quantity for the patient, rather than the PBS maximum quantity by default.
- Other therapy as indicated for the relief of bronchospasm in patients with asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or for acute prophylaxis against exercise-induced asthma or in other situations known to induce bronchospasm.

For specific guidance on prescribing bronchodilators please refer to the Australian Asthma Handbook (under section <https://www.astmahandbook.org.au/acute-asthma/clinical/bronchodilators>) and the COPD-X Plan (under section O1.1 Short-acting bronchodilators).

We believe that the above steps will help to minimise the impact of the stock shortage on patients and help to preserve supplies of Ventolin Nebules 2.5 mg for those whom alternatives are not suitable. In addition, it may provide an opportunity to review your patients to confirm diagnosis, assess control, optimise therapy (including maintenance

therapy), assess inhaler technique and adherence, manage risk factors and update written action plans.^{2,3}

This information is provided for general guidance only. Please refer to the relevant Product Information, and the Australian Asthma Handbook, the COPD-X Plan and other appropriate guidelines when determining treatment for your patient. Please also consider referring patients to Asthma Australia for patient support and education (<https://asthma.org.au/>).

For ongoing supply updates for Ventolin Nebules 2.5 mg, please visit the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) website (<https://www.tga.gov.au/>). We sincerely regret the inconvenience this may cause patients and healthcare professionals and thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this time.

If you require further information, please contact GSK Medical Information on 1800 033 109.

Kind Regards

Louis Tsai

Head of Classic and Established Products & Trade Channels