



Month/Year of Review: March 2014

PDL Classes: Pulmonary- Asthma Rescue

Date of Last Review: 2009

Source Document: Health Resources Commission

Current Status of PDL Class:

- Preferred Agents: ALBUTEROL SULFATE SOLUTION/VIAL-NEB, PIRBUTEROL ACETATE, ALBUTEROL HFA (PROAIR HFA®)
- Non-preferred Agents: LEVALBUTEROL MDI/NEBULIZER

Previous Conclusions Recommendations:

- In adults and children with asthma and adults with COPD there is insufficient evidence to determine relative differences in efficacy or effectiveness between albuterol and levalbuterol.
- There is insufficient evidence to determine a relative difference in safety or adverse events with these medications.
- There is insufficient evidence to determine comparative differences in efficacy or effectiveness in subgroups of patients' base on demographics, other medications, comorbidities, or pregnancy.
- There is insufficient evidence to determine comparative differences in heart rate or tremor for predominantly older male patients for albuterol vs. levalbuterol.

Research Questions:

- Is there any new comparative evidence of different short acting beta₂- agonists?
- Is there any new comparative safety data of short acting beta₂- agonists?
- Are there subpopulations of patients for which one medication or formulation is more effective or associated with fewer adverse effects?

Methods:

The DERP Scan was used to identify any new comparative research that has emerged since the last P&T review.¹

Conclusions and Recommendations:

- No further review or research needed at this time; update PA criteria.
- Evaluate comparative costs in executive session.

References:

1. Thakurta S. Drug Effectiveness Review Project. Drug Class Review: Quick-relief Medications for Asthma. Preliminary Scan Report. November 2013.