

SENIOR CARE CONSULTANT GROUP, LLC



Dispensing Knowledge

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EXPIRATION GUIDELINES FOR INHALATION PRODUCTS

Many healthcare providers are not aware that the expiration dating of many inhalation products change once the items are removed from their primary packaging and are "in use".

- Once these products are opened, they must be used within a specific timeframe to avoid reduced potency and, potentially, reduced efficacy.
- Many inhalers now contain dose counters, and they should be discarded when the counter reads "0".
- Remaining unused nebulizer solution vials that are originally packaged in a foil wrapper should be replaced back in the foil wrapper for storage.
- For devices with gelatin capsules, remove the capsule only immediately prior to using.

Product	Expiration Information*
Albuterol nebulizer solution	Placed back into the foil after each use. Protect from light. 12 months or manufacturer expiration date
Acetylcystine nebulizer solution	Opened vials can be stored in the refrigerator up to 96 hours
Advair Diskus (fluticasone/salmeterol)	1 month after removed from foil pouch
Azmanex Twisthaler (mometasone)	45 days after removed from foil pouch
Brovana (aformoterol)	6 weeks after opening from if stored at room temperature. Manufacturer expiration if stored in refrigerator.
Combivent Respimat (albuterol /Ipratropium)	3 months
Duonebs (albuterol /Ipratropium) nebulizer solution	Placed back into the foil after each use. Protect from light. 12 months or manufacturer expiration date
Flovent Discus (fluticasone)	50 mcg strength= 6 weeks; 100mcg and 250 mcg strength = 2 months
Foradil (formoterol) capsules	4-month expiration at room temperature. Capsules should only be removed from the blister immediately before use.
ProAir (albuterol)	12 months
Proventil HFA (albuterol)	12 months
Pulmicort Flexhaler	6 months
Pulmicort Respules (budesonide)	2 weeks after opening from foil pouch
Serevent Diskus (salmeterol)	6 weeks after removed from foil pouch
Spiriva Handihaler	Capsules should only be removed from the blister immediately before use.
Symbicort (budesonide/formoterol)	3 months after removed from foil pouch
Ventolin HFA (albuterol)	12 months after removed from foil pouch
Xopenex (levalbuterol) nebulizer solution	2 weeks after opening from foil pouch
Xoponex HFA	12 months

* Defer to expiration date on pharmacy label if it is less than the time listed in this reference

References: *Shortened Expiration Dating of Some Inhalation Products* – Pharmacist’s Letter/Prescriber’s Letter, Copyright © 2009 by Therapeutic Research Center/Individual product package inserts/ Clinical Pharmacology by Gold Standard Multimedia- accessed 7/2013.