



345 Park Blvd
Itasca, IL 60143
Phone: 630/626-6000
Fax: 847/434-8000
www.aap.org

1/16/2024

Dear Payer,

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I am writing on behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics, a non-profit professional organization of 67,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, requesting that all therapeutic equivalent and pediatric appropriate medications to branded Flovent HFA be included on your members formulary as tier 1 medications.

As you are aware, Glaxo Smith Kline has stopped manufacturing Flovent HFA, a medication necessary for managing asthma and eosinophilic esophagitis. With the discontinuation of branded Flovent HFA, generic fluticasone HFA and Asmanex HFA are the only drugs that can be administered to children effectively when utilizing a spacer device.

Access to these drugs is imperative to maintain appropriate control of asthma symptoms and eosinophilic esophagitis; without them, it will result in clinic visits, emergency department visits, hospitalization, or, in some cases, loss of life¹. We urge you to ensure generic Fluticasone HFA and Asmanex HFA are included as tier 1 drugs on insurance formularies for children. Formulary restrictions with requirements for prior authorization for these inhaled corticosteroids will result in unnecessary delays in accessing these life-saving medications, especially for those children and adolescents who have achieved control of asthma symptoms.

Alternative Tier I Medication Recommendations

Flovent HFA (fluticasone) is an inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) used for daily asthma maintenance to prevent acute asthma symptoms. Flovent HFA, the metered dose inhaler formulation, and its generic, fluticasone HFA, are preferred treatments for pediatric asthma because they can be administered effectively to young children using a spacer device and are recommended for children under 12 years of age by the Global Initiative for Asthma². Asmanex HFA (mometasone furoate) is an alternative that can be administered effectively with a spacer device. Other ICSs are delivered via breath-actuated inhalation, which requires more inspiratory flow than younger children and some children and adolescents with disabilities can produce. In addition to its role in asthma therapy, generic fluticasone HFA is the preferred treatment for pediatric patients with eosinophilic esophagitis (EOE)³, a disease for which other ICS medications are not the standard of care. Please refer to the table below for the recommended alternatives to branded Flovent.

Therapeutic Equivalent Medications to Branded Flovent		
Asthma Controller Medication		
Age Group	Preferred Drug Type	Preferred Alternative Drugs
0-3 ²	Metered dose inhaler with a spacer device and face mask	Generic Fluticasone HFA or Asmanex HFA
4 ² - 11 ⁴	Metered dose inhaler with a spacer device	Generic Fluticasone HFA or Asmanex HFA
12 and up ⁵	Metered dose inhaler with or without a spacer device	Generic Fluticasone HFA or Asmanex HFA
Eosinophilic Esophagitis Medication		
Age Group	Preferred Drug Type	Drug alternatives to branded Flovent
All Pediatric patients	Metered dose inhaler	Generic Fluticasone HFA

Thank you for your prompt attention to this letter. If you have questions, need additional information, or would like to arrange a follow-up discussion on alternative drugs to branded Flovent, please contact Stefanie Muntean-Turner, Health Policy & Coding Specialist at Smunteanturner@aap.org or 630-626-6790.

Sincerely,



Benjamin Hoffman, MD, FAAP
President, AAP

¹ [Division of Allergy, Immunology, Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine at Children's Mercy Kansas City](#)

² [Global Initiative for Asthma GINA Report, page 185 box 6-8](#)

³ [Eosinophilic Gastrointestinal Disease Program at Boston Children's Hospital.](#)

⁴ [Global Initiative for Asthma GINA Report, page 68 box 3-14](#)

⁵ Patients of this age will benefit from transitioning to Flovent HFA generic when already stable on Flovent HFA brand name medication. Adolescents with disabilities will need drugs that utilize a spacer to properly administer the medication.