Albuterol Sulfate  
Albuterol (Generic)  
Proventil, Ventolin (Brand)

Description
Albuterol relieves congestion and makes breathing easier by relaxing and opening up airways in the lungs. It is used to treat or prevent congestion related to asthma, bronchitis, emphysema or other diseases affecting the lung.

Dosage & Administration
Your dose of Albuterol is tailored to your specific needs. The usual adult dose depends on the preparation that your doctor prescribed.

- **Aerosol:** 1-2 puffs every 4-6 hours, waiting 1-2 minutes between puffs.
- **Tablets:** 2-4 mg 3-4 times daily (maximum 32mg/day).
- **Extended release tablets:** 4-8mg every 12 hours (maximum dose 16mg, twice daily). You must swallow the extended release tablets whole, do NOT crush or chew them.

Take this medicine exactly as directed by your doctor. If other medicines are also used to prevent attacks, it is very important to take them exactly as prescribed. Do not change doses. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as possible. Space the rest of the doses at regular timed intervals. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular schedule. Do not double dose.

Side Effects
Along with the needed effects, a drug may cause some unwanted effects. **Check with your doctor right away if you note any of the following:**

- increased wheezing or shortness of breath
- chest pain or irregular heartbeat
- skin rash, hives, itching
- swelling of face, lips, eyelids
- severe dizziness
- bluish skin color.
Other side effects may occur, but will go away as your body adjusts to the medicine. If the following do not go away or annoy you, contact your doctor.

**If you have**
- Nervousness or tremors
- Headache
- Insomnia
- Nausea or vomiting
- Drowsiness
- Dry mouth

**Special Instructions**
- Taking the tablets with food may prevent stomach upset.
- Diabetic patients may need to watch blood sugars more closely.
- If more than one puff is prescribed, wait 1-2 minutes in between each puff.
- If you are using a steroid inhaler, use the Albuterol inhaler first; then wait about 5 minutes before using the steroid inhaler. This allows the Albuterol to open up your airways so the steroid can work better.
- Do not stop taking your steroid inhaler unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- Tell your doctor if you have high blood pressure, diabetes, thyroid disease, seizure disorders, or if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.
- Do not use this medicine if you are allergic to sulfites.

**How should I use the inhaler?**
Albuterol aerosol is for inhalation through the mouth. Shake the canister well. Tilt your head back slightly. Breathe out fully, emptying as much air as possible from your lungs. Keep the canister upright. Keep the inhaler about 1 inch from your open mouth (or place the mouthpiece loosely between your open lips).

Press down on the inhaler (one puff) while breathing in deeply and slowly. Hold your breath for at least 10 seconds and then exhale (breathe out). Wait for at least 1 to 2 minutes between puffs. Do not use more often than directed. If you have any questions about Albuterol or any other medicines, please ask your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse.

*Developed by:
Department of Pharmacy*