

Inhaler Process for COVID-19 Patients

Patient Population: COVID-19 or COVID-19 rule out

Drug Implications: Short acting inhalers (e.g. albuterol HFA, Atrovent (ipratropium) HFA, Combivent Respimat and Xopenex (levalbuterol) HFA) have been removed from automatic dispensing cabinets (e.g. Omnicells) and have been moved to respective pharmacies to conserve supply.

Background: Due to the COVID-19 crisis, most inhalers are becoming hard to acquire and community pharmacies are struggling to obtain stock to meet the demand. To conserve supply and reduce waste we will proactively label inhalers with the NM label and a take home label so the inhaler can legally be taken home with the patient at discharge.

Pharmacists please review pharmacist's workflow below and **Technicians** please review technician's workflow starting on [page 4](#).

PHARMACIST WORKFLOW:

1. When verifying a short acting inhaler for COVID-19 or COVID-19 rule out patients, please verify the order as appropriate. Once the order is verified, please print another **"Take Home"** label.
 - a. Patients should **only be charged once** for every inhaler dispensed, so when the "Take Home" label is printed, make sure they do not get charged again (**please follow steps 2-7**).
2. Go to the medication activity tab and click dispense on the respective inhaler.
3. Change the **"Dispense From"** location to **NMH FEIN 9 PHARMACY**.
 - a. Please print labels to **NMH PREN 10 PHARMACY** for L&D Patients.
4. Change the dispense code to **"Take Home"**

albuterol (VENTOLIN HFA) inhaler 4 puff

Dispense from: NMH FEIN 9 PHARMACY

Reason for dispense:

Dispense one or more doses Dispense days supply

Dispense: 1 dispenses of 1 CANISTER

Dispense now Schedule future dispense

Medication needed on: 3/31/2020 at 1500

Label lead time: 0 minutes

Dispense code: Take Home

Dispense priority:

Label comments: Suppress label printing

Special Disposal Required - Return to Pharmacy

Charge method: Bulk Force charge on dispense

Service date: 3/31/2020

5. Keep the highlighted portion on **"Dispense one or more doses"** and keep current window as is for the area outlined in **blue**, making sure no more than 1 is selected in the dispensing product box.
6. Scroll down and make sure the **Force charge on dispense** is **NOT** checked.

hydroxyurea (HYDREA) capsule 500 mg 50

ipratropium-albuterol (COMBIVENT RESPIMAT) 20-100 mcg/actuation inhaler 1 spray 1

polyethylene glycol (MIRALAX) oral packet 17

senna-docusate (PERICOLACE) 8.6-50 mg per tablet 1 tablet 1

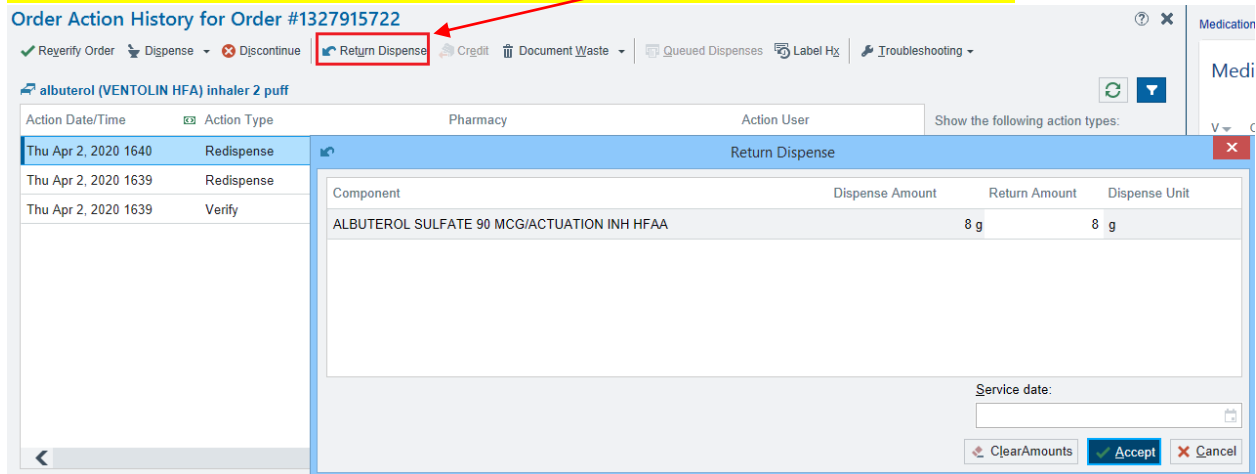
Label comments: Suppress label printing

Special Disposal Required - Return to Pharmacy

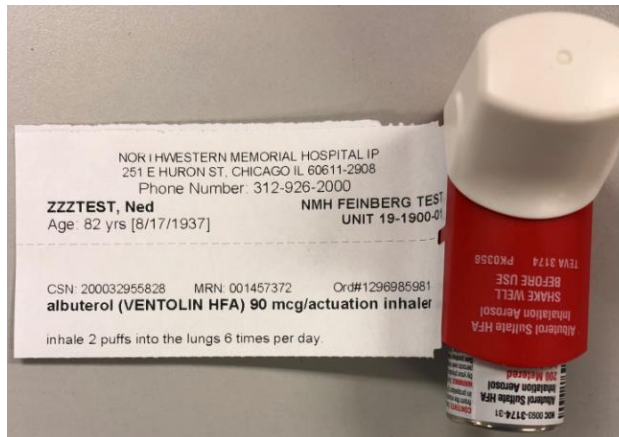
Charge method: Bulk Force charge on dispense

Service date: 3/30/2020

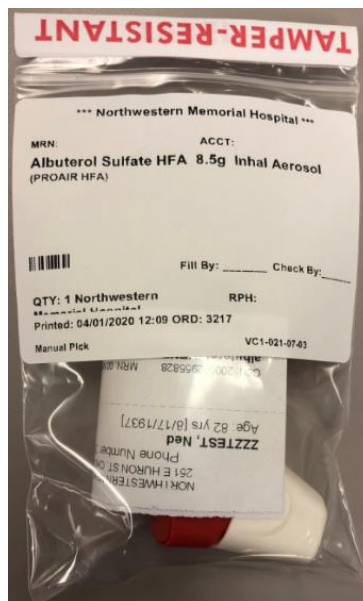
7. Once the “Take Home” label is printed, **MAKE SURE to Return Dispense. DO NOT change any of the fields and click accept. This will ensure that EPIC will not drop multiple charges on Administration.**



8. **Labeling process:** (Note: some parts of this process will be done by technicians)
- Please open the box or blister pack of the inhaler and label the “Take Home” label directly on to the inhaler as below: **(To be completed by satellite technician)**



- Satellite technician will now place the inhaler back into the plastic bag with Talyst or CPM label.
- Pharmacist will do a final check (making sure both Talyst or CPM and “take home” labels are for the same patient and are the same product). Once final check is completed, please seal the final product with a tamper-resistant label.

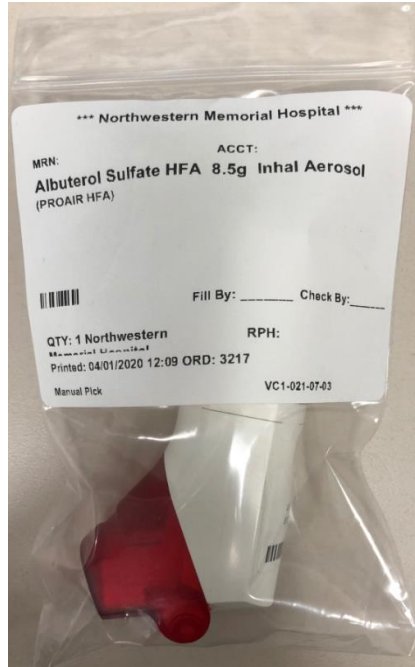


9. **Re-dispensing:**

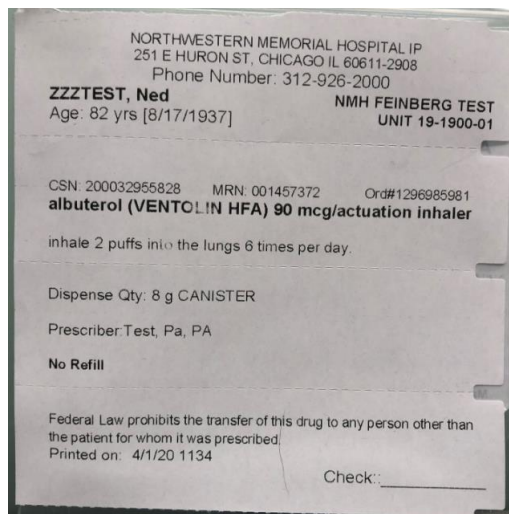
- a. If another inhaler is requested, please make sure the technician is aware that the pharmacist will have to dispense another "Take Home" label by **following steps 2-7**.
- b. It might be easier to communicate to the technician to forward the In-Basket message to the pharmacist once they have dispensed a dose from the Talyst or CPM.
 - i. Please remember currently this is **ONLY** proposed for albuterol HFA, ipratropium HFA, Combivent (albuterol/ipratropium) Respimat and levalbuterol HFA.
 - ii. REMINDER: All short acting inhalers should be **used for COVID-19 + or COVID-19 r/o patients only**. Other patients should only be receiving treatment via nebulizer with respective therapies.

TECHNICIANS WORKFLOW:

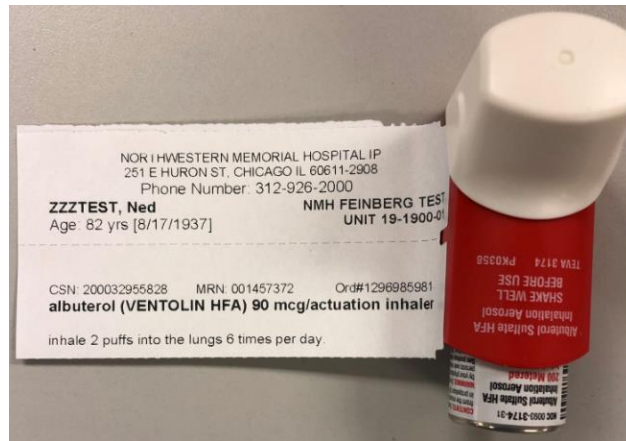
1. During the dispensing process, **ALL albuterol HFA, Atrovent (ipratropium) HFA, Combivent Respimat and Xopenex (levalbuterol) HFA** will be labeled differently.
2. When a dose is printed in Talyst or CPM, please place the inhaler in a large enough plastic bag so the inhaler can fit properly. The Talyst or CPM label should go on top of the bag. Please see the example below: **(Task to be completed by Talyst or CPM technician)**



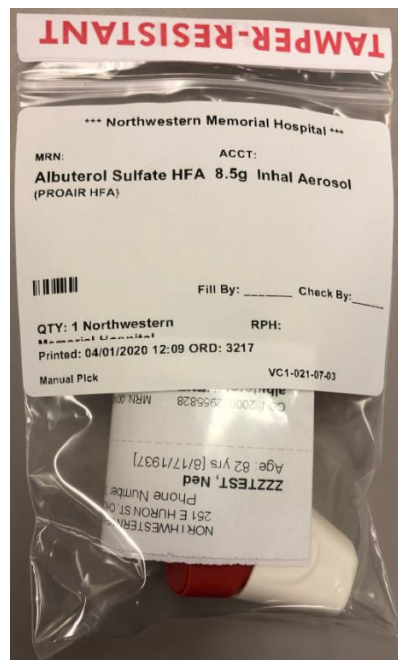
3. The pharmacist should print another label for the same inhaler for the same patient that will look like the picture below. This is a **“Take Home”** label. This label should be printed to one of the front zebra printers.



4. Please open the box or blister pack of the inhaler and label the “Take Home” label directly on to the inhaler as below. **(Task to be completed by Satellite technician)**



5. Please set the final product on the counter for pharmacist to do final check/sign off. The final product should have a tamper resistant label placed by a pharmacist before the inhaler leaves the pharmacy. See the final product with labeling below.



6. **Re-dispensing:**

- c. If another inhaler is requested, please dispense to Talyst or CPM and follow steps **2-5 above** as listed in the technician’s workflow.
- d. Please forward the in basket message in EPIC to the pharmacist reminding them to print a “Take Home” label for the inhaler product.
- e. **REMINDER:** This applies to albuterol HFA, Atrovent (ipratropium) HFA, Combivent Respimat and Xopenex (levalbuterol) HFA discussed above. These inhalers should **be used for COVID-19 positive or COVID-19 rule out patients only.**