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Color-coding for Asthma Inhalers: A General Overview

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Asthma inhaler colors help you easily discern what medicines each device contains. Knowledge of these colors and the corresponding medicines help you get fast and effective asthma relief. Learn more about the different color codes for asthma inhalers.

How Do You Use Blue Asthma Inhalers?

The commonly seen blue-capped asthma inhalers are short-acting bronchodilators, also known as relievers. Use these inhalers to stop asthma attacks. Blue inhalers contain short-acting beta-2 agonists that relax airway muscles within five minutes. Blue inhalers contain Salbutamol and Terbutaline with brand names that include Ventolin, Bricanyl, Albuterol and Salamol.

How Do You Use Green Asthma Inhalers?

Green-capped asthma inhalers are long-acting bronchodilators, also known as preventers. These inhalers contain long-acting beta-2 agonists that you use twice per day to improve overall lung function. Preventer inhalers also contain a steroid. The main long-acting bronchodilator green inhalers contain Salmeterol and Formoterol with the brand names of Serevent and Oxis. If you use a blue inhaler more than three times a week, add the preventer inhaler to your care plan.

What Colors Are Anti-inflammatory Asthma Inhalers?

Most anti-inflammatory inhalers are brown, except for the orange fluticasone. Anti-inflammatory inhalers are long-acting bronchodilators that you use at regular intervals. The anti-inflammatory properties of brown inhalers reduce your bronchial tubes from swelling along with the muscle relaxing properties of bronchodilators. Beclomethasone, Budesonide and Fluticasone are the main medicines of the brown and orange asthma inhalers with the brand names of Clenil, Pulmicort and Flixotide.

How Do You Use Grey Asthma Inhalers?

The grey-capped asthma inhaler is an inhaled anticholinergic. Anticholinergics slow down bronchoconstriction and mucus production. Inhaled anticholinergics are preventers for use at regular intervals. Anticholinergics contain ipratropium bromide with the trade name Atrovent.

What Colors are Combination Asthma Inhalers?

Combination Inhalers are long-acting bronchodilators with an inhaled steroid combination. Use these inhalers are used at regular intervals; the inhalers do not have a reliever effect. The purple inhaler contains fluticasone and salmeterol with the brand name Serevide, and the red inhaler contains budesonide and formoterol with the brand name of Symbicort.

All asthma inhalers are not the same. Know the color codes of asthma inhalers for quick assistance during an asthma attack or to provide appropriate preventive care. Asthma inhaler colors simplify the various uses of different asthma inhalers and lessen confusion as you deal with a condition that relies on quick action and consistent care for treatment.

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