

## **Flovent® Fact Sheet** **(fluticasone propionate)**

### **What is Flovent?**

**Flovent** is an **inhaled corticosteroid** (ICS) that helps reduce inflammation or swelling inside the airways. Inflammation and bronchoconstriction are the two main causes of asthma.

*Flovent* is indicated for the maintenance treatment of asthma as preventive therapy in adults and children 4 years of age and older. It should not be used to replace fast-acting inhalers for sudden symptoms.

*Flovent* works best to help prevent asthma symptoms when it's used twice a day, every day, including days when the patient is feeling fine. The purpose of using a daily inhaled corticosteroid is to keep the disease better controlled and decrease the chance of sudden asthma symptoms.

In the U.S., *Flovent* is available as *Flovent Diskus*®, a breath-activated powder inhaler, or as *Flovent HFA*, a metered-dose inhaler. Each *Flovent* device has a dose counter to allow patients to keep track of their medication use. *Flovent Diskus and Flovent HFA* are available in three different strengths to allow for dosing flexibility.

### **What are Inhaled Corticosteroids?**

Inhaled corticosteroids such as *Flovent* are preventative asthma treatments that deliver medicine directly to the lungs. They can therefore be used in much lower doses – with less chance for unwanted side effects – than oral corticosteroids.

Treatment guidelines developed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) recommend inhaled corticosteroids as preferred first-line therapy for persistent asthma. Inhaled corticosteroids are recommended for patients with uncontrolled asthma or patients with persistent asthma symptoms several times a week. In general, inhaled corticosteroids are well tolerated and have a favorable safety profile at the recommended dosages.

### **What Data Support the Use of Flovent?**

*Flovent* has been used by millions of patients since its approval in 1996. In 2000, *Flovent Diskus* was approved and *Flovent HFA* was approved in 2004. These approvals were based on multiple clinical trials in children and adults that showed *Flovent* effectively treats asthma symptoms and has a favorable safety profile. In summary, the clinical trial data for *Flovent* in children and adults have found:

- *Flovent* showed significant improvement in lung function as compared with placebo
- Patients using *Flovent* experienced significant decreases in asthma symptoms, rescue albuterol use and nighttime awakenings when compared to patients who received placebo
- Patients who received *Flovent* in clinical trials were significantly less likely to withdraw from the studies because of worsening asthma symptoms as compared with placebo

### **What are the Guideline Recommendations for the Use of an Inhaled Corticosteroid?**

Use of inhaled corticosteroids is supported by the 2007 NIH Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma. Those guidelines call for the use of an inhaled corticosteroid as the preferred therapy for patients aged 5 – 11 years of age with mild persistent asthma. For patients 5 – 11 years of age whose disease is not well controlled on an inhaled corticosteroid alone, the guidelines call for the use of an inhaled corticosteroid and a long-acting beta-agonist (LABA) as a preferred therapy. And for patients 12 years of age and older with moderate to severe persistent asthma, the guidelines recommend the combination of an inhaled corticosteroid and a LABA.

### **Important Information About Flovent Diskus and Flovent HFA:**

Prescription *Flovent Diskus* and *Flovent HFA* are for patients with asthma 4 years of age and older. *Flovent* does not replace fast-acting (rescue) inhalers for sudden symptoms. Inhaled corticosteroids, as well as poorly controlled asthma, may cause a reduction in growth rate. The long-term effect on final adult height is unknown. People switching from an oral steroid, like prednisone, to *Flovent* need to be especially careful. While adjusting to the switch, your body is not as able to heal after surgery, infection, or serious injury. See your doctor if your asthma does not improve. The use of *Flovent HFA* in children 4 to 11 years old is based in part on results of studies in patients 12 years and older and other *Flovent* products.

For full Prescribing Information for *Flovent Diskus* and *Flovent HFA* visit [www.floventdiskus.com](http://www.floventdiskus.com).