



**Strategy and Sustainability Division**  
**MINISTRY FOR HEALTH, THE ELDERLY AND COMMUNITY CARE**

**DH CIRCULAR No.166/2011**

**DH 3117/2011**

25<sup>th</sup> July 2011

**Attention all** Consultants  
Medical Officers  
Pharmacists  
Pharmacy Technicians  
Nurses

**Re: Long-acting beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist inhalation powder in capsules (Foradil®)**

Kindly note that Government Health Procurement Services are currently procuring *long-acting beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist for adults* as inhalation powder in capsules. This preparation has a different delivery system than the previously procured inhalation powder. Health-care professionals are kindly directed to explain to patients that the capsules must **ONLY** be used with the supplied inhaler device.

**Inhalation Process:**

Individual patients are advised as follows:

1. Pull off the cap.
2. Hold the base of the inhaler firmly and turn the mouthpiece in the direction of the arrow on the bottom of the mouthpiece to open.
3. Take one of the capsules out of the blister strip. Place it in the capsule-shaped compartment in the base of the inhaler. It is important that you remove the capsule from the blister pack only immediately before you use it.
4. Twist the mouthpiece to the closed position until it clicks.
5. Keeping the inhaler upright, firmly squeeze the two blue buttons *once only*. This will pierce the capsule. Release the buttons. Although the capsule is now pierced, the powder will not be released until you inhale it.
6. Breathe out fully.
7. Place the mouthpiece in your mouth and tilt your head slightly backwards. Close your lips around the mouthpiece and breathe in as quickly and as deeply as you can. As you breathe in, you will inhale the medicine into your lungs.
8. You should hear the capsule spinning in the inhaler. If you do not hear this whirring noise, the capsule may be stuck in the compartment. If this occurs, open the inhaler and loosen the capsule by prising it out of the compartment. Do not try to loosen the capsule by repeatedly pressing the buttons.
9. If you have heard the whirring noise, hold your breath for as long as you comfortably can while taking the inhaler out of your mouth. Then breathe normally. Open the inhaler to see if any powder is still in the capsule. If there is still powder in the capsule repeat steps 6-8.
10. After use, tip out the empty capsule and close the mouthpiece.
11. Replace the cap.



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Kindly note that the *prescriber criteria* for long-acting beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist for both adults (Protocol 271 attached) and children (Protocol 270 attached) have been amended to Consultant Respiratory Physician and Consultant Paediatrician.

This circular supersedes the previously issued Circular No: DH144/11 on the same subject.

Thank you  
For your attention, please

Dr Natasha Azzopardi Muscat  
Director General

## **Salmeterol inhaler**

**Prescriber Criteria:** Consultant Respiratory Physician  
Consultant Paediatrician

**Out-patient and In-patient use:**

1. Chronic Asthma
2. Chronic Respiratory Failure

Add-on therapy to an inhaled corticosteroid in children requiring a long-acting beta<sub>2</sub> agonist licensed for children aged between 4 – 12 years.

**Duration of Approval:**

1 year

## **Long-acting Beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist inhalers for Patients over 12 years**

**Prescriber Criteria:** Consultant Respiratory Physician  
Consultant Paediatrician

**Out-patient and In-patient use:**

1. Chronic Asthma
2. Chronic Respiratory Failure

Add-on therapy to an inhaled corticosteroid in patients over 12 years.

- Salmeterol will be procured for athlete patients who are subject to doping tests.

**Duration of Approval:**

1 year