

# Medication Safety Notice

No. SA 21 / 02 page 1 of 1

Issued by the Office of the Chief Pharmacist, SA Health  
[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/medicationsafety](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/medicationsafety)



A patient **Safety Notice** strongly advises the implementation of particular recommendations or solutions to improve quality and safety.

## We recommend you inform:

- General Managers
- Pharmacy Directors
- Medical Directors
- Clinical Directors
- Nursing Directors
- Drug and Therapeutics Committees
- Medication Safety Committees
- Safety and Quality Units
- Clinical Governance

## Contact details:

T: (08) 8204 1944

E: [HealthMedicationSafety@sa.gov.au](mailto:HealthMedicationSafety@sa.gov.au)

## Salbutamol metered dose inhalers and endotracheal tubes

### Purpose

- > To raise awareness of a recent change in the presentation of salbutamol metered dose inhalers (MDIs) which may impact the equipment required for administration via endotracheal tube.

### Issue

- > Salbutamol MDIs may be administered via endotracheal tubes for the management of bronchospasm in critical care areas.
- > This is achieved by removing the inner canister from the salbutamol MDI device, and using a specific adaptor/connector to connect to the endotracheal tube.
- > All brands of salbutamol MDI (e.g. Asmol<sup>®</sup>, Ventolin<sup>®</sup>) have been modified to enhance community safety, by the addition of a counter showing the number of remaining doses in the canister.
- > There is the potential that some adaptors or syringes previously used for endotracheal tube administration may now be incompatible with this presentation, and are unable to be used.
- > Salbutamol inhalers without dose counters will no longer be available once remaining stocks are exhausted.



### Recommendations

- > Conduct a risk assessment of local practices, to identify and address any requirements for changes to processes or equipment relevant to your Local Health Network and/or Service.
- > This should include reviewing specific connectors in use, and where necessary purchasing alternative compatible products.

### Action required by SA Health staff and services

1. Be aware of changes to salbutamol inhalers and potential impact on clinical use in certain critical care treatments.
2. Undertake a local risk assessment and implement changes as necessary.