

## **Your Inhaler has changed!**

### **Which inhaler?**

Salbutamol - the blue puffer or inhaler which is also known as an MDI which stands for Metered Dose Inhaler.

### **What's different?**

The gas used in the inhaler to help spray the medicine into your lungs is different. It used to be CFC (chlorofluorocarbon), which is harmful to the environment and has now been changed to HFA (hydrofluoroalkane) which is less harmful.

### **How does that change my inhaler?**

You may notice some differences such as a different taste or a softer, warmer spray. It may even sound different when you press the inhaler. **But**, it will cost the same and be the same dosage and is safe and effective.

### **Are CFC's and HFA's harmful to me?**

No, they are not harmful to you in your inhaler but they harm the ozone layer. The ozone layer is very important because it protects us from the sun's damaging rays.

### **Will the other inhalers be changing?**

Yes. They will be phased out over time. The production and importation of corticosteroid MDI's (for example-Flovent or Vanceril) will be prohibited after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004. The production and importation of all other MDI's will be prohibited after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005.