

CLINICAL ADVISORY

December | 2023

PharMerica

Medication Error Potential Found in EHRs, Erroneous Ordering of Airsupra™

ISSUE

A circumstance with the potential to produce medication errors has been identified within EHR/EMAR software, related to the inhaler **Airsupra™** (albuterol/budesonide) being incorrectly ordered in place of **albuterol sulfate** products.

BACKGROUND

Albuterol sulfate is a short-acting beta₂-agonist available as a number of inhaled products (e.g., Ventolin, albuterol HFA, Solution for Nebulization, etc.) indicated for the treatment or prevention of bronchospasm. These products are widely available as generics, are well-known to prescribers, and are frequently ordered as mainstays of as-needed rescue therapy.

Airsupra™ is a first-in-class, fixed-dose combination, metered-dose rescue inhaler containing this short-acting beta₂-agonist (albuterol) and an inhaled corticosteroid (budesonide), similarly indicated for the as-needed treatment or prevention of bronchoconstriction. Airsupra™ is new-to-market and staff may be unfamiliar with the product.

ERROR POTENTIAL

EHR users searching for commonly used albuterol sulfate products may inadvertently select Albuterol-Budesonide Inhalation Aerosol 90-80MCG/ACT (Airsupra™) when it is located amidst other albuterol options (see screenshot below).

Perhaps confounding this situation is Airsupra's dose strength of "90-80MCG/ACT" which may lead users to believe they are selecting the albuterol HFA products that share this initial strength of 90mcg of albuterol sulfate.

Medication:	albuterol
Dispense as Written (DAW):	Albuterol Sulfate Powder Albuterol Sulfate Oral Syrup
Order Type:	Albuterol Sulfate Oral Tablet
Route of Administration:	Albuterol Sulfate Oral Tablet 2 MG Albuterol Sulfate Oral Tablet 4 MG Albuterol Sulfate Oral Syrup 2 MG/5ML Albuterol Sulfate Inhalation Nebulization Solution
Scheduling Details	
Schedule:	<input type="radio"/> Routine <input type="radio"/> PRN
Source Details	
Parent Medication Source:	PharMerica
	Albuterol-Budesonide Inhalation Aerosol 90-80 MCG/ACT Albuterol Sulfate ER Oral Tablet Extended Release 12 Hour Albuterol Sulfate ER Oral Tablet Extended Release 12 Hour 4 MG Albuterol Sulfate ER Oral Tablet Extended Release 12 Hour 8 MG Albuterol Sulfate Inhalation Aerosol Powder Breath Activated (Showing 12 of 21)

RISKS

Given the shared indications and the fact that Airsupra contains albuterol, there is negligible risk for clinically meaningful effects of Airsupra™ being erroneously ordered in place of albuterol sulfate. Unintended recipients of Airsupra™ should be evaluated for potential adverse effects and interactions with the ICS component. Mistakenly interchanging Airsupra™ with an albuterol sulfate product does, however, constitute a potentially costly medication error, and preventative steps should be taken in light of this identified issue.

ACTION STEPS

PharMerica

- Pharmacists are to review and confirm Airsupra™ orders with prescribers or appropriate staff, until issue resolution.
- PharMerica leadership is notifying EHRs with known issue of the error potential and requesting corrective action.

Serviced Facilities

- Communicate this medication error potential to prescribers and nursing staff and provide education to prevent the inadvertent selection of Airsupra™.