



Medications at Home: Fluticasone (Flovent)

The neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) team celebrates with you as your baby goes home! After graduation from the NICU, your baby will need medication to stay well.

Why does my baby need this medication?

- Fluticasone is used to prevent or control wheezing or reactive airway episodes caused by lung disease. Fluticasone is a corticosteroid used to prevent or treat inflammation (swelling) in the airways. It does *not* give fast relief of wheezing and shortness of breath.

How, how much, and when is this medication given to my baby?

- Fluticasone is given in “puffs” with an inhaler and a spacer. You will have to fit a mask over your baby’s nose and mouth to give this medicine. Be careful not to get the mist in your baby’s eyes.
- Always follow the directions given to you by your baby’s team about how to administer the medication.
- The amount of medicine to give has been carefully calculated based on your baby’s weight and needed response from the medicine. Do not change the dose without talking to your baby’s provider.
- Dose Instructions: _____

What are possible side effects?

- Nausea (upset stomach)
- Eye irritation (redness, watery eyes)
- Dry mouth or throat irritation when swallowing
- Shortness of breath

Call your baby’s provider right away if your baby has

- white spots or sores in the mouth
- swollen face, lower legs, or ankles
- common cold or other infection
- weakness
- increased difficulty with breathing
- skin rash
- bleeding or bruising
- fever.

What if my baby misses a dose or spits up the medication?

- Give the missed dose as soon as you remember it. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and stick to the regular medication schedule.
- Never give a double dose.
- Call your baby’s provider if your baby misses two or more doses.

Important Medication Safety Tips

- Only give your baby medicines prescribed by your baby’s provider. Do not share prescription medicines with other children or adults.
- Check with your baby’s provider before giving your baby any over-the-counter medicines.
- Keep all medicines out of reach of children, closed tightly in the bottles or containers they came in, and with the labels of directions given by the pharmacy.
- Give fluticasone exactly as directed by your baby’s provider.
 - Never stop fluticasone or give more or less than prescribed without first talking with your baby’s provider. Too little may not be enough to help, and too much may cause harm. In case of overdose, immediately call the Poison Control Center at



800.222.1222. If you cannot wake your baby or he or she has stopped breathing, start cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and call your local emergency medical services or 911 right away.

- Store fluticasone at room temperature and away from excess heat and damp areas like the bathroom.
- Clean your baby’s mouth with a soft cloth moistened with water after treatment is finished.
- Always use the five “rights” when giving medication to your baby:
 - Right baby (if other children are in the home)
 - Right medication
 - Right amount (always measure the dose with the syringe or dropper provided by the pharmacy, not a common household teaspoon)
 - Right time
 - Right way (exactly as prescribed and directed by your baby’s provider).

The above information is to help you better understand your baby’s care. Always follow the instructions given by your baby’s health-care provider and pharmacist. It’s always OK to ask questions if you have concerns about your baby.

Online Resources

American Academy of Pediatrics
www.aap.org

Kids Health
www.kidshealth.org

HealthFinder.gov
www.healthfinder.gov

Medline Plus: Drug Information
www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginfo/meds

Institute for Safe Medication Practices
www.ismp.org/consumers

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
www.fda.gov