

## HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use ASMANEX HFA safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for ASMANEX HFA.

**ASMANEX® HFA (mometasone furoate) inhalation aerosol, for oral inhalation use**  
Initial U.S. Approval: 1987

### RECENT MAJOR CHANGES

#### Warnings and Precautions

Drug Interactions with Strong Cytochrome P450 3A4 Inhibitors (5.6)	03/2018
Glaucoma and Cataracts (5.11)	03/2018

### INDICATIONS AND USAGE

ASMANEX HFA is a corticosteroid indicated for:

- Maintenance treatment of asthma as prophylactic therapy in patients 12 years of age and older. (1.1)

Important limitations:

- Not indicated for the relief of acute bronchospasm. (1.1)

### DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

For oral inhalation only. (2.1)

- Treatment of asthma in patients 12 years of age and older: 2 inhalations twice daily of ASMANEX HFA 100 mcg or 200 mcg. (2.2)
- Starting dosage is based on prior asthma therapy. (2.2)

### DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

- Inhalation aerosol containing 100 mcg or 200 mcg of mometasone furoate per actuation. (3)

### CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Primary treatment of status asthmaticus or acute episodes of asthma requiring intensive measures. (4.1)
- Hypersensitivity to any of the ingredients of ASMANEX HFA. (4.2)

### WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

- Deterioration of asthma and acute episodes: ASMANEX HFA should not be used for relief of acute symptoms. Patients require immediate re-evaluation during rapidly deteriorating asthma. (5.1)
- Localized infections: *Candida albicans* infection of the mouth and throat may occur. Monitor patients periodically for signs of adverse effects on the oral cavity. Advise patients to rinse the mouth following inhalation. (5.2)
- Immunosuppression: Potential worsening of existing tuberculosis, fungal, bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection; or ocular herpes simplex infections. More serious or even fatal course of chickenpox or measles can occur in susceptible patients. Use with

caution in patients with these infections because of the potential for worsening of these infections. (5.3)

- Transferring patients from systemic corticosteroids: Risk of impaired adrenal function when transferring from oral steroids. Wean patients slowly from systemic corticosteroids if transferring to ASMANEX HFA. (5.4)
- Hypercorticism and adrenal suppression: May occur with very high dosages or at the regular dosage in susceptible individuals. If such changes occur, discontinue ASMANEX HFA slowly. (5.5)
- Strong cytochrome P450 3A4 inhibitors (e.g., ritonavir): Risk of increased systemic corticosteroid effects. Exercise caution when used with ASMANEX HFA. (5.6)
- Paradoxical bronchospasm: Discontinue ASMANEX HFA and institute alternative therapy if paradoxical bronchospasm occurs. (5.7)
- Hypersensitivity reactions including anaphylaxis: Hypersensitivity reactions, such as urticaria, flushing, allergic dermatitis, bronchospasm, rash, pruritus, angioedema, and anaphylactic reaction may occur. Discontinue ASMANEX HFA if such reactions occur. (5.8)
- Decreases in bone mineral density: Monitor patients with major risk factors for decreased bone mineral content. (5.9)
- Effects on growth: Monitor growth of pediatric patients. (5.10)
- Glaucoma and cataracts: Consider referral to an ophthalmologist in patients who develop ocular symptoms or use ASMANEX HFA long term. (5.11)

### ADVERSE REACTIONS

Most common adverse reactions (reported in greater than or equal to 3% of patients) included:

- nasopharyngitis, headache, sinusitis, bronchitis, and influenza. (6.1)

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., at 1-877-888-4231 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch).

### DRUG INTERACTIONS

- Strong cytochrome P450 3A4 inhibitors (e.g., ritonavir): Use with caution. May cause increased systemic corticosteroid effects. (7.1)

### USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

- Hepatic impairment: Monitor patients for signs of increased drug exposure. (8.6)

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION and FDA-approved patient labeling.

Revised: 03/2018

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## FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

### 1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

#### 1.1 Treatment of Asthma

ASMANEX<sup>®</sup> HFA is indicated for the maintenance treatment of asthma as prophylactic therapy in patients 12 years of age and older.

#### Important Limitations of Use

- ASMANEX HFA is NOT indicated for the relief of acute bronchospasm.

### 2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

#### 2.1 General

ASMANEX HFA should be administered only by the orally inhaled route [see *Instructions for Use in the Patient Information leaflet*]. After each dose, the patient should be advised to rinse his/her mouth with water without swallowing.

The cap from the mouthpiece of the actuator should be removed before using ASMANEX HFA.

ASMANEX HFA should be primed before using for the first time by releasing 4 test sprays into the air, away from the face, shaking well before each spray. In cases where the inhaler has not been used for more than 5 days, prime the inhaler again by releasing 4 test sprays into the air, away from the face, shaking well before each spray.

The ASMANEX HFA canister should only be used with the ASMANEX HFA actuator. The ASMANEX HFA actuator should not be used with any other inhalation drug product. Actuators from other products should not be used with the ASMANEX HFA canister.

#### 2.2 Dosing

ASMANEX HFA should be administered as two inhalations twice daily every day (morning and evening) by the orally inhaled route.

Shake well prior to each inhalation.

The recommended doses for ASMANEX HFA treatment based on prior asthma therapy are provided in **Table 1**.

**TABLE 1: Recommended Dosages for ASMANEX HFA Treatment**

Previous Therapy	Recommended Dose
Inhaled medium-dose corticosteroids	ASMANEX HFA 100 mcg, 2 inhalations twice daily
Inhaled high-dose corticosteroids	ASMANEX HFA 200 mcg, 2 inhalations twice daily
Oral corticosteroids*	ASMANEX HFA 200 mcg, 2 inhalations twice daily

**\*For Patients Currently Receiving Chronic Oral Corticosteroid Therapy:** Prednisone should be weaned slowly, beginning after at least 1 week of ASMANEX HFA therapy. Monitor patients carefully for signs of asthma instability, including serial objective measures of airflow, and for signs of adrenal insufficiency during steroid taper and following discontinuation of oral corticosteroid therapy [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.4)*].

If a dosage regimen of ASMANEX HFA fails to provide adequate control of asthma, the therapeutic regimen should be re-evaluated and additional therapeutic options, e.g., replacing the current strength of ASMANEX HFA with a higher strength, initiating an inhaled corticosteroid and long-acting beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist combination product, or initiating oral corticosteroids, should be considered.

The maximum daily recommended dose is two inhalations of ASMANEX HFA 200 mcg twice daily (maximum of 800 mcg a day). If symptoms arise between doses, an inhaled short-acting beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist should be taken for immediate relief.

The maximum benefit may not be achieved for 1 week or longer after beginning treatment. Individual patients may experience a variable time to onset and degree of symptom relief. For patients

who do not respond adequately after 2 weeks of therapy, higher strength may provide additional asthma control.

After asthma stability has been achieved, it is desirable to titrate to the lowest effective dosage to reduce the possibility of side effects.

### **3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS**

ASMANEX HFA is a pressurized metered dose inhaler that is available in 2 strengths.

ASMANEX HFA 100 mcg delivers 100 mcg of mometasone furoate per actuation.

ASMANEX HFA 200 mcg delivers 200 mcg of mometasone furoate per actuation.

### **4 CONTRAINDICATIONS**

#### **4.1 Status Asthmaticus**

ASMANEX HFA is contraindicated in the primary treatment of status asthmaticus or other acute episodes of asthma where intensive measures are required.

#### **4.2 Hypersensitivity**

ASMANEX HFA is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to mometasone furoate or any of the ingredients in ASMANEX HFA [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.8)*].

### **5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

#### **5.1 Deterioration of Asthma and Acute Episodes**

ASMANEX HFA is not indicated for the relief of acute symptoms, i.e., as rescue therapy for the treatment of acute episodes of bronchospasm. An inhaled, short-acting beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist, not ASMANEX HFA, should be used to relieve acute symptoms such as shortness of breath. When prescribing ASMANEX HFA, the physician must also provide the patient with an inhaled, short-acting beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist (e.g., albuterol) for treatment of acute symptoms, despite regular twice-daily (morning and evening) use of ASMANEX HFA. Instruct patients to contact their physician immediately if episodes of asthma that are not responsive to bronchodilators occur during the course of treatment with ASMANEX HFA. During such episodes, patients may require therapy with oral corticosteroids.

#### **5.2 Local Effects**

In clinical trials, the development of localized infections of the mouth and pharynx with *Candida albicans* have occurred in patients treated with ASMANEX HFA. If oropharyngeal candidiasis develops, it should be treated with appropriate local or systemic (i.e., oral) antifungal therapy while remaining on treatment with ASMANEX HFA therapy, but at times therapy with ASMANEX HFA may need to be interrupted. Advise patients to rinse the mouth after inhalation of ASMANEX HFA.

#### **5.3 Immunosuppression**

Persons who are using drugs that suppress the immune system are more susceptible to infections than healthy individuals.

Chickenpox and measles, for example, can have a more serious or even fatal course in susceptible children or adults using corticosteroids. In such children or adults who have not had these diseases or who are not properly immunized, particular care should be taken to avoid exposure. How the dose, route, and duration of corticosteroid administration affect the risk of developing a disseminated infection is not known. The contribution of the underlying disease and/or prior corticosteroid treatment to the risk is also not known. If exposed to chickenpox, prophylaxis with varicella zoster immune globulin (VZIG) or pooled intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) may be indicated. If exposed to measles, prophylaxis with pooled intramuscular immunoglobulin (IG) may be indicated. (See the respective package inserts for complete VZIG and IG prescribing information.) If chickenpox develops, treatment with antiviral agents may be considered.

Inhaled corticosteroids should be used with caution, if at all, in patients with active or quiescent tuberculosis infection of the respiratory tract, untreated systemic fungal, bacterial, viral, or parasitic infections; or ocular herpes simplex.

#### **5.4 Transferring Patients from Systemic Corticosteroid Therapy**

Particular care is needed for patients who are transferred from systemically active corticosteroids to ASMANEX HFA because deaths due to adrenal insufficiency have occurred in asthmatic patients during and after transfer from systemic corticosteroids to less systemically available inhaled corticosteroids. After withdrawal from systemic corticosteroids, a number of months are required for recovery of hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) function.

Patients who have been previously maintained on 20 mg or more per day of prednisone (or its equivalent) may be most susceptible, particularly when their systemic corticosteroids have been almost completely withdrawn. During this period of HPA suppression, patients may exhibit signs and symptoms of adrenal insufficiency when exposed to trauma, surgery, or infection (particularly gastroenteritis) or other conditions associated with severe electrolyte loss. Although ASMANEX HFA may improve control of asthma symptoms during these episodes, in recommended doses it supplies less than normal physiological amounts of corticosteroid systemically and does NOT provide the mineralocorticoid activity necessary for coping with these emergencies.

During periods of stress or severe asthma attack, patients who have been withdrawn from systemic corticosteroids should be instructed to resume oral corticosteroids (in large doses) immediately and to contact their physicians for further instruction. These patients should also be instructed to carry a medical identification card indicating that they may need supplementary systemic corticosteroids during periods of stress or severe asthma attack.

Patients requiring oral or other systemic corticosteroids should be weaned slowly from oral or other systemic corticosteroid use after transferring to ASMANEX HFA. Lung function (FEV<sub>1</sub> or PEF), beta-agonist use, and asthma symptoms should be carefully monitored during withdrawal of oral or other systemic corticosteroids. In addition to monitoring asthma signs and symptoms, patients should be observed for signs and symptoms of adrenal insufficiency such as fatigue, lassitude, weakness, nausea and vomiting, and hypotension.

Transfer of patients from systemic corticosteroid therapy to ASMANEX HFA may unmask allergic conditions previously suppressed by the systemic corticosteroid therapy, e.g., rhinitis, conjunctivitis, eczema, arthritis, and eosinophilic conditions.

During withdrawal from oral corticosteroids, some patients may experience symptoms of systemically active corticosteroid withdrawal, e.g., joint and/or muscular pain, lassitude, and depression, despite maintenance or even improvement of respiratory function.

#### **5.5 Hypercorticism and Adrenal Suppression**

ASMANEX HFA will often help control asthma symptoms with less suppression of HPA function than therapeutically equivalent oral doses of prednisone. Since mometasone furoate is absorbed into the circulation and can be systemically active at higher doses, the beneficial effects of ASMANEX HFA in minimizing HPA dysfunction may be expected only when recommended dosages are not exceeded and individual patients are titrated to the lowest effective dose.

Because of the possibility of systemic absorption of inhaled corticosteroids, patients treated with ASMANEX HFA should be observed carefully for any evidence of systemic corticosteroid effects. Particular care should be taken in observing patients postoperatively or during periods of stress for evidence of inadequate adrenal response.

It is possible that systemic corticosteroid effects such as hypercorticism and adrenal suppression (including adrenal crisis) may appear in a small number of patients, particularly when mometasone furoate is administered at higher than recommended doses over prolonged periods of time. If such effects occur, the dosage of ASMANEX HFA should be reduced slowly, consistent with accepted procedures for reducing systemic corticosteroids and for management of asthma symptoms.

#### **5.6 Drug Interactions with Strong Cytochrome P450 3A4 Inhibitors**

Caution should be exercised when considering the coadministration of ASMANEX HFA with ketoconazole, and other known strong cytochrome P450 (CYP) isoenzyme 3A4 (CYP3A4) inhibitors (e.g., ritonavir, cobicistat-containing products, atazanavir, clarithromycin, indinavir, itraconazole, nefazodone, nelfinavir, saquinavir, telithromycin) because adverse effects related to increased systemic exposure to mometasone furoate may occur [see *Drug Interactions (7.1) and Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)*].

### 5.7 Paradoxical Bronchospasm and Upper Airway Symptoms

ASMANEX HFA may produce inhalation induced bronchospasm with an immediate increase in wheezing after dosing that may be life-threatening. If inhalation induced bronchospasm occurs, it should be treated immediately with an inhaled, short-acting bronchodilator. ASMANEX HFA should be discontinued immediately and alternative therapy instituted.

### 5.8 Hypersensitivity Reactions Including Anaphylaxis

Hypersensitivity reactions such as urticaria, flushing, allergic dermatitis, and bronchospasm, may occur after administration of ASMANEX HFA. Discontinue ASMANEX HFA if such reactions occur [see *Contraindications (4.2)*].

The following additional hypersensitivity reactions, such as rash, pruritus, angioedema, and anaphylactic reaction, have been reported after administration of mometasone furoate dry powder inhaler [see *Adverse Reactions (6.2)*].

### 5.9 Reduction in Bone Mineral Density

Decreases in bone mineral density (BMD) have been observed with long-term administration of products containing inhaled corticosteroids, including mometasone furoate. The clinical significance of small changes in BMD with regard to long-term outcomes, such as fracture, is unknown. Patients with major risk factors for decreased bone mineral content, such as prolonged immobilization, family history of osteoporosis, or chronic use of drugs that can reduce bone mass (e.g., anticonvulsants and corticosteroids) should be monitored and treated with established standards of care.

In a 2-year double-blind study in 103 male and female asthma patients 18 to 50 years of age previously maintained on bronchodilator therapy (Baseline FEV<sub>1</sub> 85%-88% predicted), treatment with mometasone furoate dry powder inhaler 200 mcg twice daily resulted in significant reductions in lumbar spine (LS) BMD at the end of the treatment period compared to placebo. The mean change from Baseline to Endpoint in the lumbar spine BMD was -0.015 (-1.43%) for the mometasone furoate dry powder inhaler group compared to 0.002 (0.25%) for the placebo group. In another 2-year double-blind study in 87 male and female asthma patients 18 to 50 years of age previously maintained on bronchodilator therapy (Baseline FEV<sub>1</sub> 82%-83% predicted), treatment with mometasone furoate dry powder inhaler 400 mcg twice daily demonstrated no statistically significant changes in lumbar spine BMD at the end of the treatment period compared to placebo. The mean change from Baseline to Endpoint in the lumbar spine BMD was -0.018 (-1.57%) for the mometasone furoate group compared to -0.006 (-0.43%) for the placebo group.

### 5.10 Effect on Growth

Orally inhaled corticosteroids, including ASMANEX HFA, may cause a reduction in growth velocity when administered to pediatric patients. Monitor the growth of pediatric patients receiving ASMANEX HFA routinely (e.g., via stadiometry). To minimize the systemic effects of orally inhaled corticosteroids, including ASMANEX HFA, titrate each patient's dose to the lowest dosage that effectively controls his/her symptoms [see *Use in Specific Populations (8.4)*].

### 5.11 Glaucoma and Cataracts

Glaucoma, increased intraocular pressure, and cataracts have been reported following the use of long-term administration of inhaled corticosteroids, including mometasone furoate. Consider referral to an ophthalmologist in patients who develop ocular symptoms or use ASMANEX HFA long term [see *Adverse Reactions (6)*].

## 6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

Systemic and local corticosteroid use may result in the following:

- *Candida albicans* infection [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.2)*]
- Immunosuppression [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.3)*]
- Hypercorticism and adrenal suppression [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.5)*]
- Growth effects in pediatrics [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.10)*]
- Glaucoma and cataracts [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.11)*]

## 6.1 Clinical Trials Experience

Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in the clinical trials of another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in practice. The safety of ASMANEX HFA was evaluated in 2 randomized placebo and active-controlled trials of 12 and 26 weeks' duration, conducted as part of a mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate combination product asthma program, which enrolled 1509 patients with persistent asthma. Patient ages ranged from 12 to 84 years of age, 41% were male and 59% female, 73% were Caucasian and 27% non-Caucasian. Of the total population enrolled in the 2 trials, 432 patients received two inhalations twice daily of either ASMANEX HFA, 100 mcg or 200 mcg/actuation. In the 26-week trial (Trial 1) 192 patients received two inhalations twice daily of ASMANEX HFA 100 mcg/actuation and 196 patients received placebo. In the 12 week trial (Trial 2) 240 patients received two inhalations twice daily of ASMANEX HFA 200 mcg/actuation and 233 and 255 patients received mometasone furoate and formoterol fumarate 100 mcg/5 mcg and 200 mcg/5 mcg/actuation combination products, respectively, as comparators.

In these trials, the proportion of patients who discontinued study treatment early due to adverse reactions was 3% and 2% for ASMANEX HFA 100 and 200 mcg treated patients, respectively, and 4% for placebo-treated patients. Serious adverse reactions, whether considered drug-related or not by the investigators, which occurred more frequently in ASMANEX HFA-treated patients included colitis ulcerative, colonic polyp, chest pain, gastroenteritis, endometriosis, asthma, and hemoptysis; all events occurred at rates less than 1%.

The incidence of treatment emergent adverse reactions associated with ASMANEX HFA are shown in Tables 2 and 3. These are based upon data from each of the 2 clinical trials of 12 or 26 weeks in duration in patients 12 years and older treated with two inhalations twice daily of ASMANEX HFA (100 mcg or 200 mcg), mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate (100 mcg/5 mcg or 200 mcg/5 mcg), or placebo.

**TABLE 2: Trial 1: Treatment-Emergent Adverse Reactions Occurring at an Incidence of ≥3% and More Commonly than Placebo Over 26 Weeks**

	<b>ASMANEX HFA 100 mcg N=192 n (%)</b>	<b>Placebo N=196 n (%)</b>
Nasopharyngitis	15 (8)	7 (4)
Headache	10 (5)	7 (4)
Influenza	7 (4)	5 (3)
Sinusitis	6 (3)	2 (1)

**TABLE 3: Trial 2: Treatment-Emergent Adverse Reactions Occurring at an Incidence of ≥3% Over 12 Weeks**

	<b>ASMANEX HFA 200 mcg N=240 n (%)</b>	<b>MF/F* 100/5 mcg N=233 n (%)</b>	<b>MF/F* 200/5 mcg N=255 n (%)</b>
Nasopharyngitis	13 (5)	8 (3)	12 (5)
Headache	8 (3)	10 (4)	5 (2)
Bronchitis	6 (3)	2 (1)	7 (3)

\*MF/F = mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate

Oral candidiasis has been reported in clinical trials at an incidence of 0.5% in patients using ASMANEX HFA 100 mcg, 0.8% in patients using ASMANEX HFA 200 mcg and 0.5% in the placebo group.

## 6.2 Postmarketing Experience

There are no postmarketing adverse experiences reported to date with ASMANEX HFA. However, the postmarketing safety experience with mometasone furoate dry powder inhaler is relevant to ASMANEX HFA since they contain the same active ingredient. The following adverse reactions have been reported during post-approval use of mometasone furoate dry powder inhaler. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure.

**Eye disorders:** Vision blurred [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.11)].

**Immune System Disorders:** Immediate and delayed hypersensitivity reactions including rash, pruritus, angioedema and anaphylactic reaction [see *Contraindications* (4.2) and *Warnings and Precautions* (5.8)].

**Respiratory, Thoracic and Mediastinal Disorders:** Asthma aggravation, which may include cough, dyspnea, wheezing and bronchospasm.

## 7 DRUG INTERACTIONS

In clinical trials, concurrent administration of ASMANEX HFA and other drugs, such as short-acting beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist and intranasal corticosteroids have not resulted in an increased frequency of adverse drug reactions. No formal drug interaction studies have been performed with ASMANEX HFA.

### 7.1 Inhibitors of Cytochrome P450 3A4

The main route of metabolism of corticosteroids, including mometasone furoate, is via CYP3A4. After oral administration of ketoconazole, a strong inhibitor of CYP3A4, the mean plasma concentration of orally inhaled mometasone furoate increased. Concomitant administration of CYP3A4 inhibitors may inhibit the metabolism of, and increase the systemic exposure to, mometasone furoate and potentially increase the risk for systemic corticosteroid side effects. Caution should be exercised when considering the coadministration of ASMANEX HFA with long-term ketoconazole and other known strong CYP3A4 inhibitors (e.g., ritonavir, cobicistat-containing products, atazanavir, clarithromycin, indinavir, itraconazole, nefazodone, nelfinavir, saquinavir, telithromycin) [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.6) and *Clinical Pharmacology* (12.3)]. Consider the benefit of coadministration versus the potential risk of systemic corticosteroid effects, in which case patients should be monitored for systemic corticosteroid side effects.

## 8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

### 8.1 Pregnancy

#### Risk Summary

There are no randomized clinical studies of ASMANEX HFA in pregnant women. There are clinical considerations with the use of ASMANEX HFA in pregnant women [see *Clinical Considerations*]. In animal reproduction studies with pregnant mice, rats, or rabbits, mometasone furoate caused increased fetal malformations and decreased fetal survival and growth following administration of doses that produced exposures approximately 1/3 to 8 times the maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) on a mcg/m<sup>2</sup> or AUC basis [see *Data*]. However, experience with oral corticosteroids suggests that rodents are more prone to teratogenic effects from corticosteroid exposure than humans.

The estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage for the indicated population is unknown. In the U.S. general population, the estimated risk of major birth defects and miscarriage in clinically recognized pregnancies is 2 to 4% and 15 to 20%, respectively.

#### Clinical Considerations

##### *Disease-associated maternal and/or embryo/fetal risk*

In women with poorly or moderately controlled asthma, there is an increased risk of several perinatal adverse outcomes such as preeclampsia in the mother and prematurity, low birth weight, and

small for gestational age in the neonate. Pregnant women with asthma should be closely monitored and medication adjusted as necessary to maintain optimal asthma control.

## Data

### *Animal Data*

In an embryofetal development study with pregnant mice dosed throughout the period of organogenesis, mometasone furoate produced cleft palate at an exposure approximately one-third of the MRHD (on a mcg/m<sup>2</sup> basis with maternal subcutaneous doses of 60 mcg/kg and above) and decreased fetal survival at an exposure approximately equivalent to the MRHD (on a mcg/m<sup>2</sup> basis with a maternal subcutaneous dose of 180 mcg/kg). No toxicity was observed with a dose that produced an exposure approximately one-tenth of the MRHD (on a mcg/m<sup>2</sup> basis with maternal topical dermal doses of 20 mcg/kg and above).

In an embryofetal development study with pregnant rats dosed throughout the period of organogenesis, mometasone furoate produced fetal umbilical hernia at exposures approximately 6 times the MRHD (on a mcg/m<sup>2</sup> basis with maternal topical dermal doses of 600 mcg/kg and above) and delays in fetal ossification at exposures approximately 3 times the MRHD (on a mcg/m<sup>2</sup> basis with maternal topical dermal doses of 300 mcg/kg and above).

In another reproductive toxicity study, pregnant rats were dosed with mometasone furoate throughout pregnancy or late in gestation. Treated animals had prolonged and difficult labor, fewer live births, lower birth weight, and reduced early pup survival at an exposure that was approximately 8 times the MRHD (on an area under the curve (AUC) basis with a maternal subcutaneous dose of 15 mcg/kg). There were no findings with an exposure approximately 4 times the MRHD (on an AUC basis with a maternal subcutaneous dose of 7.5 mcg/kg).

Embryofetal development studies were conducted with pregnant rabbits dosed with mometasone furoate by either the topical dermal route or oral route throughout the period of organogenesis. In the study using the topical dermal route, mometasone furoate caused multiple malformations in fetuses (e.g., flexed front paws, gallbladder agenesis, umbilical hernia, hydrocephaly) at an exposure approximately 3 times the MRHD (on a mcg/m<sup>2</sup> basis with maternal topical dermal doses of 150 mcg/kg and above). In the study using the oral route, mometasone furoate caused increased fetal resorptions and cleft palate and/or head malformations (hydrocephaly and domed head) at an exposure approximately 1/2 of the MRHD (on AUC basis with a maternal oral dose of 700 mcg/kg). At an exposure approximately 2 times the MRHD (on an AUC basis with a maternal oral dose of 2800 mcg/kg), most litters were aborted or resorbed. No effects were observed at an exposure approximately 1/10 of the MRHD (on an AUC basis with a maternal oral dose of 140 mcg/kg).

## **8.2 Lactation**

### Risk Summary

There are no available data on the presence of ASMANEX HFA in human milk, the effects on the breastfed child, or the effects on milk production. Other inhaled corticosteroids, similar to mometasone furoate, are present in human milk. The developmental and health benefits of breastfeeding should be considered along with the mother's clinical need for ASMANEX HFA and any potential adverse effects on the breastfed infant from ASMANEX HFA or from the underlying maternal condition.

## **8.4 Pediatric Use**

The safety and effectiveness of ASMANEX HFA have been established in patients 12 years of age and older in 2 clinical trials of 12 and 26 weeks in duration. In the 2 clinical trials, 32 patients 12 to 17 years of age were treated with ASMANEX HFA. No overall differences in effectiveness were observed between patients in this age group compared to those observed in patients 18 years of age and older. There were no obvious differences in the type or frequency of adverse drug reactions reported in this age group compared to patients 18 years of age and older. The safety and efficacy of ASMANEX HFA have not been established in children less than 12 years of age.

Controlled clinical studies have shown that inhaled corticosteroids may cause a reduction in growth velocity in pediatric patients. In these studies, the mean reduction in growth velocity was approximately 1 cm per year (range 0.3 to 1.8 per year) and appears to depend upon dose and duration of exposure. This effect was observed in the absence of laboratory evidence of HPA axis suppression, suggesting that growth velocity is a more sensitive indicator of systemic corticosteroid exposure in pediatric patients than



some commonly used tests of HPA axis function. The long-term effects of this reduction in growth velocity associated with orally inhaled corticosteroids, including the impact on final adult height, are unknown. The potential for "catch-up" growth following discontinuation of treatment with orally inhaled corticosteroids has not been adequately studied.

The growth of children and adolescents receiving orally inhaled corticosteroids, including ASMANEX HFA, should be monitored routinely (e.g., via stadiometry). If a child or adolescent on any corticosteroid appears to have growth suppression, the possibility that he/she is particularly sensitive to this effect should be considered. The potential growth effects of prolonged treatment should be weighed against clinical benefits obtained and the risks associated with alternative therapies. To minimize the systemic effects of orally inhaled corticosteroids, including ASMANEX HFA, each patient should be titrated to his/her lowest effective dose [see *Dosage and Administration (2.2)*].

### 8.5 Geriatric Use

A total of 38 patients 65 years of age and older (3 of whom were 75 years and older) have been treated with ASMANEX HFA in 2 clinical trials of 12 and 26 weeks in duration. No overall differences in safety or effectiveness were observed between these patients and younger patients, but greater sensitivity of some older individuals cannot be ruled out. Based on available data for ASMANEX HFA, no adjustment of dosage in geriatric patients is warranted.

### 8.6 Hepatic Impairment

Concentrations of mometasone furoate appear to increase with severity of hepatic impairment [see *Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)*].

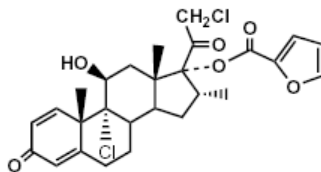
## 10 OVERDOSAGE

Chronic overdosage may result in signs/symptoms of hypercorticism [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.5)*]. Single oral doses up to 8000 mcg of mometasone furoate have been studied on human volunteers with no adverse reactions reported.

## 11 DESCRIPTION

ASMANEX HFA is a metered dose inhaler for oral inhalation only, consisting of 100 mcg and 200 mcg of mometasone furoate per actuation.

Mometasone furoate, the active component of ASMANEX HFA, is a corticosteroid having the chemical name 9,21-dichloro-11(Beta),17-dihydroxy-16 (alpha)-methylpregna-1,4-diene-3,20-dione 17-(2-furoate) with the following chemical structure:



Mometasone furoate is a white powder with an empirical formula of  $C_{27}H_{30}Cl_2O_6$ , and molecular weight 521.44. It is practically insoluble in water; slightly soluble in methanol, ethanol, and isopropanol; soluble in acetone.

Each ASMANEX HFA 100 mcg and 200 mcg is a hydrofluoroalkane (HFA-227: 1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane) propelled pressurized metered dose inhaler containing sufficient amount of drug for 120 actuations [see *How Supplied/Storage and Handling (16)*]. After priming, each actuation of the inhaler delivers 115 or 225 mcg of mometasone furoate in 69.6 mg of suspension from the valve and delivers 100 or 200 mcg of mometasone furoate from the actuator. The actual amount of drug delivered to the lung may depend on patient factors, such as the coordination between actuation of the device and inspiration through the delivery system. ASMANEX HFA also contains ethanol as a cosolvent and oleic acid as a surfactant.

ASMANEX HFA should be primed before using for the first time by releasing 4 test sprays into the air, away from the face, shaking well before each spray. In cases where the inhaler has not been used for

more than 5 days, prime the inhaler again by releasing 4 test sprays into the air, away from the face, shaking well before each spray.

## 12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

### 12.1 Mechanism of Action

Mometasone furoate is a corticosteroid demonstrating potent anti-inflammatory activity. The precise mechanism of corticosteroid action on asthma is not known. Inflammation is an important component in the pathogenesis of asthma. Corticosteroids have been shown to have a wide range of inhibitory effects on multiple cell types (e.g., mast cells, eosinophils, neutrophils, macrophages, and lymphocytes) and mediators (e.g., histamine, eicosanoids, leukotrienes, and cytokines) involved in inflammation and in the asthmatic response. These anti-inflammatory actions of corticosteroids may contribute to their efficacy in asthma.

Mometasone furoate has been shown *in vitro* to exhibit a binding affinity for the human glucocorticoid receptor, which is approximately 12 times that of dexamethasone, 7 times that of triamcinolone acetonide, 5 times that of budesonide, and 1.5 times that of fluticasone. The clinical significance of these findings is unknown.

### 12.2 Pharmacodynamics

#### HPA Axis Effects

The effects of inhaled mometasone furoate administered via ASMANEX HFA on adrenal function have not been directly evaluated. However, the effects of inhaled mometasone furoate, administered as part of a mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate inhalation aerosol combination product, on adrenal function were evaluated in two clinical trials in patients with asthma. As no evidence of a pharmacokinetic drug interaction between mometasone furoate and formoterol was observed when the two drugs were administered in combination, the HPA axis effects from the combination product are applicable to ASMANEX HFA. For the mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate combination product clinical program, HPA-axis function was assessed by 24-hour plasma cortisol AUC. Although both these trials have open-label design and contain a small number of subjects per treatment arm, results from these trials taken together demonstrated suppression of 24-hour plasma cortisol AUC for the combination mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate 200 mcg/5 mcg compared to placebo consistent with the known systemic effects of inhaled corticosteroid.

In a 42-day, open-label, placebo- and active-controlled study, the mean change from baseline plasma cortisol AUC<sub>(0-24 hr)</sub> was 8%, 22% and 34% lower compared to placebo for the mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate 100 mcg/5 mcg (n=13), mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate 200 mcg/5 mcg (n=15) and fluticasone propionate/salmeterol xinafoate 230 mcg/21 mcg (n=16) treatment groups, respectively.

In a 52-week, open-label safety study, the mean plasma cortisol AUC<sub>(0-24 hr)</sub> was 2.2%, 29.6%, 16.7%, and 32.2% lower from baseline for the mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate 100 mcg/5 mcg (n=18), mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate 200 mcg/5 mcg (n=20), fluticasone propionate/salmeterol xinafoate 125/25 mcg (n=8), and fluticasone propionate/salmeterol xinafoate 250/25 mcg (n=11) treatment groups, respectively.

The potential effect of mometasone furoate via a dry powder inhaler (DPI) on the HPA axis was also assessed in a 29-day study. A total of 64 adult patients with mild to moderate asthma were randomized to one of 4 treatment groups: mometasone furoate DPI 440 mcg twice daily, mometasone furoate DPI 880 mcg twice daily, oral prednisone 10 mg once daily, or placebo. The 30-minute post-Cosyntropin stimulation serum cortisol concentration on Day 29 was 23.2 mcg/dL for the mometasone furoate DPI 440 mcg twice daily group and 20.8 mcg/dL for the mometasone furoate DPI 880 mcg twice daily group, compared to 14.5 mcg/dL for the oral prednisone 10 mg group and 25 mcg/dL for the placebo group. The difference between mometasone furoate DPI 880 mcg twice daily (twice the maximum recommended dose) and placebo was statistically significant.

### 12.3 Pharmacokinetics

As no evidence of a pharmacokinetic drug interaction between mometasone furoate and formoterol was observed when the two drugs were administered from a mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate combination product, the pharmacokinetics information from the combination product is applicable to ASMANEX HFA.

### Absorption

*Healthy Subjects:* Following oral inhalation of single doses of ASMANEX HFA, mometasone furoate was absorbed in healthy subjects with median  $T_{max}$  values ranging from 0.50 to 2 hours. Following single-dose administration of higher than recommended dose of ASMANEX HFA (4 inhalations of ASMANEX HFA 200 mcg) in healthy subjects, the arithmetic mean (CV%)  $C_{max}$  and  $AUC_{(0-tf)}$  values for mometasone furoate were 53 (102) pg/mL and 992 (80) pg•hr/mL, respectively. Studies using oral dosing of labeled and unlabeled drug have demonstrated that the oral systemic bioavailability of mometasone furoate is negligible (<1%).

*Asthma Patients:* Following oral inhalation of single and multiple doses of the mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate combination product, mometasone furoate was absorbed in asthma patients with median  $T_{max}$  values ranging from 1 to 2 hours. Following single-dose administration of mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate 400 mcg/10 mcg, the arithmetic mean (CV%)  $C_{max}$  and  $AUC_{(0-12\text{ hr})}$  values for mometasone furoate were 20 (88) pg/mL and 170 (94) pg•hr/mL, respectively, while the corresponding estimates following twice daily dosing of mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate 400 mcg/10 mcg at steady-state were 60 (36) pg/mL and 577 (40) pg•hr/mL.

### Distribution

Based on the study employing a 1000 mcg inhaled dose of tritiated mometasone furoate inhalation powder in humans, no appreciable accumulation of mometasone furoate in the red blood cells was found. Following an intravenous 400 mcg dose of mometasone furoate, the plasma concentrations showed a biphasic decline, with a mean steady-state volume of distribution of 152 liters. The *in vitro* protein binding for mometasone furoate was reported to be 98% to 99% (in a concentration range of 5 to 500 ng/mL).

### Metabolism

Studies have shown that mometasone furoate is primarily and extensively metabolized in the liver of all species investigated and undergoes extensive metabolism to multiple metabolites. *In vitro* studies have confirmed the primary role of human liver CYP3A4 in the metabolism of this compound; however, no major metabolites were identified. Human liver CYP3A4 metabolizes mometasone furoate to 6-beta hydroxy mometasone furoate.

### Excretion

Following an intravenous dosing, the terminal half-life was reported to be about 5 hours. Following the inhaled dose of tritiated 1000 mcg mometasone furoate, the radioactivity is excreted mainly in the feces (a mean of 74%), and to a small extent in the urine (a mean of 8%) up to 7 days. No radioactivity was associated with unchanged mometasone furoate in the urine. Absorbed mometasone furoate is cleared from plasma at a rate of approximately 12.5 mL/min/kg, independent of dose. The effective  $t_{1/2}$  for mometasone furoate following inhalation with DULERA was 25 hours in healthy subjects and in patients with asthma.

### Special Populations

*Hepatic/Renal Impairment:* There are no data regarding the specific use of ASMANEX HFA in patients with hepatic or renal impairment.

A study evaluating the administration of a single inhaled dose of 400 mcg mometasone furoate by a dry powder inhaler to subjects with mild (n=4), moderate (n=4), and severe (n=4) hepatic impairment resulted in only 1 or 2 subjects in each group having detectable peak plasma concentrations of mometasone furoate (ranging from 50-105 pg/mL). The observed peak plasma concentrations appear to increase with severity of hepatic impairment; however, the numbers of detectable levels were few.

*Gender and Race:* Specific studies to examine the effects of gender and race on the pharmacokinetics of ASMANEX HFA have not been specifically studied.

*Geriatrics:* The pharmacokinetics of ASMANEX HFA have not been specifically studied in the elderly population.

### Drug-Drug Interactions

A single-dose crossover study was conducted to compare the pharmacokinetics of 4 inhalations of the following: mometasone furoate MDI, formoterol MDI, mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate MDI

combination product, and mometasone furoate MDI plus formoterol fumarate MDI administered concurrently. The results of the study indicated that there was no evidence of a pharmacokinetic interaction between mometasone furoate and formoterol.

**Inhibitors of Cytochrome P450 Enzymes: Ketoconazole:** In a drug interaction study, an inhaled dose of mometasone furoate 400 mcg delivered by a dry powder inhaler was given to 24 healthy subjects twice daily for 9 days and ketoconazole 200 mg (as well as placebo) were given twice daily concomitantly on Days 4 to 9. Mometasone furoate plasma concentrations were <150 pg/mL on Day 3 prior to coadministration of ketoconazole or placebo. Following concomitant administration of ketoconazole, 4 out of 12 subjects in the ketoconazole treatment group (n=12) had peak plasma concentrations of mometasone furoate >200 pg/mL on Day 9 (211-324 pg/mL). Mometasone furoate plasma levels appeared to increase and plasma cortisol levels appeared to decrease upon concomitant administration of ketoconazole.

## 13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

### 13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

In a 2-year carcinogenicity study in Sprague Dawley rats, mometasone furoate demonstrated no statistically significant increase in the incidence of tumors at inhalation doses up to 67 mcg/kg (approximately 14 times the MRHD on an AUC basis). In a 19-month carcinogenicity study in Swiss CD-1 mice, mometasone furoate demonstrated no statistically significant increase in the incidence of tumors at inhalation doses up to 160 mcg/kg (approximately 9 times the MRHD on an AUC basis).

Mometasone furoate increased chromosomal aberrations in an *in vitro* Chinese hamster ovary cell assay, but did not have this effect in an *in vitro* Chinese hamster lung cell assay. Mometasone furoate was not mutagenic in the Ames test or mouse lymphoma assay, and was not clastogenic in an *in vivo* mouse micronucleus assay, a rat bone marrow chromosomal aberration assay, or a mouse male germ-cell chromosomal aberration assay. Mometasone furoate also did not induce unscheduled DNA synthesis *in vivo* in rat hepatocytes.

In reproductive studies in rats, impairment of fertility was not produced by subcutaneous doses up to 15 mcg/kg (approximately 8 times the MRHD on an AUC basis).

## 14 CLINICAL STUDIES

### 14.1 Asthma

The safety and efficacy of ASMANEX HFA was demonstrated in two randomized, double-blind, placebo- or active-controlled multi-center clinical trials of 12 and 26 weeks' duration, conducted as part of a mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate 100/5 mcg or 200/5 mcg combination product development program. A total of 1509 patients 12 years of age and older with persistent asthma (mean baseline FEV<sub>1</sub> of 66% to 73% predicted) were evaluated.

#### **Trial 1: Clinical Trial with ASMANEX HFA 100 mcg**

This 26-week, placebo-controlled trial conducted as part of a mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate combination product asthma program evaluated 781 patients 12 years of age and older. Of these patients, 192 patients received ASMANEX HFA 100 mcg and 196 patients received placebo, each administered as 2 inhalations twice daily by metered dose inhalation aerosols. All other maintenance therapies were discontinued. The study included a 2- to 3-week run-in period with ASMANEX HFA 100 mcg, 2 inhalations twice daily. Patients ranged from 12 to 76 years of age, 41% were male and 59% female, and 72% were Caucasian and 28% non-Caucasian. Patients had persistent asthma and were not well controlled on medium dose of inhaled corticosteroids prior to randomization. Mean FEV<sub>1</sub> and mean percent predicted FEV<sub>1</sub> were similar among all treatment groups (2.33 L, 73%). Thirteen (7%) patients receiving ASMANEX HFA 100 mcg and 46 (23%) patients receiving placebo discontinued the study early due to treatment failure.

The change in mean trough FEV<sub>1</sub> from baseline to Week 12 compared to placebo was assessed to evaluate the efficacy of ASMANEX HFA 100 mcg. The change from baseline to week 12 in the mean trough FEV<sub>1</sub> was greater among patients receiving ASMANEX HFA 100 mcg 2 inhalations twice daily than among those receiving placebo (treatment difference from placebo 0.12 L and 95% confidence interval [0.05, 0.20]).

Clinically judged deteriorations in asthma or reductions in lung function were also assessed to evaluate the efficacy of ASMANEX HFA 100 mcg. Deteriorations in asthma were defined as any of the

following: a 20% decrease in FEV<sub>1</sub>; a 30% decrease in PEF on two or more consecutive days; emergency treatment, hospitalization, or treatment with systemic corticosteroids or other asthma medications not allowed per protocol. Sixty-five (34%) patients who received ASMANEX HFA 100 mcg reported an event compared to 109 (56%) patients who received placebo.

Treatment of asthma patients with ASMANEX HFA 100 mcg, two inhalations twice daily also resulted in fewer nocturnal awakenings and improved morning peak flow compared to those who received placebo.

**Trial 2: Clinical Trial with ASMANEX HFA 200 mcg**

This 12-week randomized, double-blind, active-controlled trial also conducted as part of a mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate combination product asthma program evaluated a total of 728 patients 12 years of age and older comparing ASMANEX HFA 200 mcg (n=240 patients), mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate 200 mcg/5 mcg (n=255 patients), and mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate 100 mcg/5 mcg (n=233 patients), each administered as 2 inhalations twice daily by metered dose inhalation aerosols. All other maintenance therapies were discontinued. This trial included a 2- to 3-week run-in period with ASMANEX HFA 200 mcg, 2 inhalations twice daily. Patients had persistent asthma and were uncontrolled on high-dose inhaled corticosteroids prior to study entry. Patients ranged from 12 to 84 years of age, 44% were male and 56% female, and 89% were Caucasian and 11% non-Caucasian. Mean FEV<sub>1</sub> and mean percent predicted FEV<sub>1</sub> values were similar among all treatment groups (2.05 L, 66%). The number of patients who discontinued the trial early due to treatment failure were 11 (5%) in the mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate 100 mcg/5 mcg group, 8 (3%) in the mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate 200 mcg/5 mcg group, and 13 (5%) in the ASMANEX HFA 200 mcg group.

In order to assess the added benefit of a higher dose of mometasone in the 200 mcg/actuation mometasone furoate product compared to the lower dose 100 mcg/actuation product, trough FEV<sub>1</sub> at 12 weeks was compared between the combination mometasone furoate/formoterol fumarate 200 mcg/5 mcg and 100 mcg/5 mcg treatment groups as a secondary endpoint. Improvement in trough FEV<sub>1</sub> from baseline to week 12 in patients who received mometasone furoate 200 mcg in combination with formoterol fumarate 5 mcg was numerically greater than among patients who received mometasone furoate 100 mcg in combination with formoterol fumarate 5 mcg (treatment difference of 0.05 L and 95% confidence interval [-0.02, 0.10]).

**Other Studies**

In addition to Trial 1 and Trial 2, the safety and efficacy of mometasone furoate MDI 100 mcg and 200 mcg, in comparison to placebo were demonstrated in three other 12-week, placebo-controlled trials which evaluated the mean change in FEV<sub>1</sub> from baseline as a primary endpoint.

**16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING**

**16.1 How Supplied**

ASMANEX HFA is available in two strengths and supplied in the following package size (Table 4):

**Table 4**

<b>Package</b>	<b>NDC</b>
ASMANEX HFA 100 mcg 120 metered actuations	0085-4333-01
ASMANEX HFA 200 mcg 120 metered actuations	0085-4334-01

Each strength is supplied as a pressurized aluminum canister that has a blue plastic actuator integrated with a dose counter and a pink dust cap. Each canister has a net fill weight of 13 grams. Each inhaler is placed into a carton. Each carton contains 1 inhaler.

Initially the dose counter will display “124” actuations. After the initial priming with 4 actuations, the dose counter will read “120” and the inhaler is now ready for use.

## 16.2 Storage and Handling

The ASMANEX HFA canister should only be used with the ASMANEX HFA actuator. The ASMANEX HFA actuator should not be used with any other inhalation drug product. Actuators from other products should not be used with the ASMANEX HFA canister.

The canister should not be removed from the actuator because the correct amount of medication may not be discharged; the dose counter may not function properly; reinsertion may cause the dose counter to count down by 1 and discharge a puff.

The correct amount of medication in each inhalation cannot be ensured after the labeled number of actuations from the canister has been used, even though the inhaler may not feel completely empty and may continue to operate. The inhaler should be discarded when the labeled number of actuations has been used (the dose counter will read “0”).

Store at controlled room temperature 20-25°C (68-77°F); excursions permitted to 15-30°C (59-86°F) [see USP Controlled Room Temperature].

For best results, the canister should be at room temperature before use. Shake well and remove the cap from the mouthpiece of the actuator before using. Keep out of reach of children. Avoid spraying in eyes.

Contents Under Pressure: Do not puncture. Do not use or store near heat or open flame. Exposure to temperatures above 120°F may cause bursting. Never throw container into fire or incinerator.

## 17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

Advise the patient to read the FDA-approved patient labeling (Patient Information and Instructions for Use).

### Not for Acute Symptoms

Advise patients that ASMANEX HFA is not indicated to relieve acute asthma symptoms, and extra doses should not be used for that purpose. ASMANEX HFA is not a bronchodilator and should not be used to treat status asthmaticus or to relieve acute asthma symptoms. Acute asthma symptoms should be treated with an inhaled, short-acting beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist such as albuterol. Prescribe the patient with such medication and instruct the patient in how it should be used [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*].

Instruct patients to seek medical attention immediately if they experience any of the following:

- If their symptoms worsen
- Significant decrease in lung function as outlined by the physician
- If they need more inhalations of a short-acting beta<sub>2</sub>-agonist than usual

Advise patients not to increase the dose or frequency of ASMANEX HFA. The daily dosage of ASMANEX HFA should not exceed two inhalations twice daily. If they miss a dose, instruct patients to take their next dose at the same time they normally do.

Advise patients not to stop or reduce ASMANEX HFA therapy without physician/provider guidance since symptoms may recur after discontinuation.

### Local Effects

Advise patients that localized infections with *Candida albicans* occurred in the mouth and pharynx in some patients. If oropharyngeal candidiasis develops, it should be treated with appropriate local or systemic (i.e., oral) antifungal therapy while still continuing with ASMANEX HFA therapy, but at times therapy with ASMANEX HFA may need to be temporarily interrupted under close medical supervision. Advise patients to rinse the mouth after inhalation of ASMANEX HFA [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.2)*].

### Immunosuppression

Warn patients who are on immunosuppressant doses of corticosteroids to avoid exposure to chickenpox or measles and, if exposed, to consult their physician without delay. Inform patients of potential worsening of existing tuberculosis, fungal, bacterial, viral, or parasitic infections, or ocular herpes simplex [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.3)*].

### Hypercorticism and Adrenal Suppression

Advise patients that ASMANEX HFA may cause systemic corticosteroid effects of hypercorticism and adrenal suppression. Additionally, instruct patients that deaths due to adrenal insufficiency have

occurred during and after transfer from systemic corticosteroids. Patients should taper slowly from systemic corticosteroids if transferring to ASMANEX HFA [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.4 and 5.5)*].

#### Reduction in Bone Mineral Density

Advise patients who are at an increased risk for decreased BMD that the use of corticosteroids may pose an additional risk and should be monitored and, where appropriate, be treated for this condition [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.9)*].

#### Reduced Growth Velocity

Inform patients that orally inhaled corticosteroids, including ASMANEX HFA, may cause a reduction in growth velocity when administered to pediatric patients. Physicians should closely follow the growth of pediatric patients taking corticosteroids by any route [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.10)*].

#### Glaucoma and Cataracts

Advise patients that long-term use of inhaled corticosteroids may increase the risk of some eye problems (glaucoma or cataracts); regular eye examinations should be considered [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.11)*].

#### Hypersensitivity Reactions Including Anaphylaxis

Advise patients that hypersensitivity reactions, such as urticaria, flushing, allergic dermatitis, bronchospasm, rash, pruritus, angioedema, and anaphylactic reaction, may occur after administration of ASMANEX HFA. Instruct patients to discontinue ASMANEX HFA if such reactions occur [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.8)*].

#### Use Daily for Best Effect

Advise patients to use ASMANEX HFA at regular intervals, since its effectiveness depends on regular use. Maximum benefit may not be achieved for 1 week or longer after starting treatment. If symptoms do not improve after 2 weeks of therapy or if the condition worsens, instruct patients to contact their physician.

#### Instructions for Use

Instruct patients regarding the following:

- Read the Patient Information before use and follow the Instructions for Use carefully.
- Remind patients to:
  - Remove the cap from the mouthpiece of the actuator before use.
  - Not remove the canister from the actuator.
  - Not wash inhaler in water. The mouthpiece should be cleaned using a dry wipe after every 7 days of use.

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Manufactured for: Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., a subsidiary of  
 **MERCK & CO., INC.**, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889, USA

Manufactured by: 3M Health Care Ltd., Loughborough, United Kingdom.

For patent information: [www.merck.com/product/patent/home.html](http://www.merck.com/product/patent/home.html)

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