

[Home](#)

2. Formoterol

# Formoterol (inhalation)

**Generic name:** formoterol (inhalation) [ *for-MOE-ter-all* ]**Brand names:** [Perforomist](#), [Foradil Aerolizer](#)**Dosage form:** inhalation solution (20 mcg/2 mL)**Drug class:** [Adrenergic bronchodilators](#)[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Jun 10, 2024. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)

## What is formoterol inhalation?

Formoterol inhalation is used to control the symptoms of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), including [chronic bronchitis](#) and [emphysema](#).

Formoterol may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

## Formoterol inhalation side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

**Formoterol may cause serious side effects. Call your doctor at once if you have:**

- tremors, nervousness, chest pain, fast or pounding heartbeats;
- [wheezing](#), choking, or other breathing problems after using formoterol;
- worsening breathing problems;
- **high blood sugar**--increased thirst, increased urination, [dry mouth](#), fruity breath odor; or
- **low potassium level**--leg cramps, [constipation](#), irregular heartbeats, fluttering in your chest, numbness or tingling, muscle weakness or limp feeling.

**Common side effects of formoterol may include:**

- nausea, [vomiting](#), diarrhea;
- nervousness, trouble sleeping;
- [headache](#);
- dizziness;

- tremor;
- tiredness;
- muscle cramps; or
- dry mouth.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Formoterol side effects](#) (more detail)

## Related/similar drugs

### Breztri Aerosphere

Breztri

(budesonide/glycopyrrolate/formoterol fumarate) is a combination inhaler that may be used ...

#### Reviews & ratings

6.9 / 10

[119 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

### Xolair

Xolair injection (omalizumab) is used to reduce the risk of severe food allergy reactions ...

#### Reviews & ratings

7.5 / 10

[229 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

#### FEATURED

### Dupixent

Dupixent may be used to treat eczema, eosinophilic or oral-corticosteroid-dependent asthma, chronic ...

#### Reviews & ratings

7.2 / 10

[499 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Symbicort

Symbicort (budesonide and formoterol) is used to prevent bronchospasm in people with asthma or ...

### Reviews & ratings

6.6 / 10

[226 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Singulair

Singulair (montelukast) is used to prevent asthma attacks in adults and children as young as 12 ...

### Reviews & ratings

6.6 / 10

[221 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Ventolin HFA

Ventolin HFA (albuterol) is used to treat or prevent breathing problems in patients who have asthma ...

### Reviews & ratings

7.5 / 10

[18 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Zithromax

Zithromax (azithromycin) treats infections caused by bacteria, such as respiratory infections, skin ...

### Reviews & ratings

7.1 / 10

[127 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Advair Diskus

Advair is used to prevent asthma attacks and to treat COPD. Learn about side effects, interactions ...

### Reviews & ratings

7.2 / 10

[114 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Warnings

**Formoterol is for use only in people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and should not be used to treat asthma.**

**Formoterol is not a rescue medicine. It will not work fast enough to treat a bronchospasm attack.**

Seek medical attention if your breathing problems get worse quickly, or if you think your medications are not working as well.

## Before taking this medicine

You should not use formoterol if you are allergic to it. **Formoterol is for use only in people with COPD and should not be used to treat asthma.**

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- [heart disease](#), [high blood pressure](#);
- a seizure;
- diabetes;
- [liver disease](#); or
- a thyroid disorder.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Formoterol inhalation is not approved for use by anyone younger than 18 years old.

## How should I use formoterol inhalation?

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

**Using too much of formoterol can cause life-threatening side effects.**

**Formoterol is not a rescue medicine for bronchospasm attacks.** Use only fast-acting inhalation medicine for an attack. Seek medical attention if your breathing problems get worse quickly, or if you think your medications are not working as well.

Formoterol solution for inhalation is for use only with a standard jet nebulizer machine connected to an air compressor. Do not mix formoterol with other medicines in the nebulizer.

**Read and carefully follow any Instructions for Use provided with your medicine.** Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you do not understand these instructions.

Store this medicine in the refrigerator, protected from light and heat.

Keep each vial in the foil pouch until you are ready to use the medicine. Once a vial is opened, you must use the medicine right away. Throw the empty vial away where children and pets cannot get to it.

You may store an unopened foil pouch at room temperature but you must use it within 3 months or throw it away.

Do not use formoterol if it does not look clear and colorless in the vial. Do not use after the [expiration date](#) on the label has passed.

**You should not stop using formoterol suddenly.** Stopping suddenly may make your condition worse.

 [Detailed Formoterol dosage information](#)

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Skip the missed dose and use your next dose at the regular time. **Do not** use two doses at one time.

## What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222. **An overdose of formoterol inhalation can be fatal.**

Overdose symptoms may include chest pain, fast or irregular heartbeats, nervousness, tremor, muscle cramps, feeling light-headed, and [fainting](#).

## What should I avoid while using formoterol inhalation?

Do not use a second inhaled bronchodilator that contains formoterol or a similar medicine (such as [arformoterol](#), [indacaterol](#), [olodaterol](#), [salmeterol](#), or [vilanterol](#)).

## What other drugs will affect formoterol inhalation?

**If you also use a short-acting bronchodilator, do not use it daily while you are using formoterol.** Use the short-acting bronchodilator only for a sudden bronchospasm attack.

Other drugs may affect formoterol, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Tell your doctor about all your current medicines and any medicine you start or stop using.

 [Formoterol drug interactions](#) (more detail)

## Does formoterol interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

formoterol

+

Enter a drug name

Add

## Popular FAQ

Can asthma inhalers cause a sore throat?

▼

## More about formoterol

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(17\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Drug class: adrenergic bronchodilators](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)
- [En español](#)

## Patient resources

- [Formoterol advanced reading](#)
- [Formoterol Inhalation Solution](#)

## Other brands

[Perforomist](#), [Foradil Aerolizer](#)

## Professional resources

- [Formoterol monograph](#)
- [Formoterol Inhalation Solution \(FDA\)](#)

## Other brands

[Perforomist](#), [Foradil Aerolizer](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [Asthma, Maintenance](#)
- [Bronchospasm Prophylaxis](#)
- [COPD](#)
- [COPD, Acute](#)
- [COPD, Maintenance](#)

## Further information


Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

### Medical Disclaimer

Copyright 1996-2025 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 8.01.

### DRUG STATUS

<b>Availability</b>		
Rx	Prescription only	
<b>Pregnancy &amp; Lactation</b>		
	Risk data available	
<b>CSA Schedule*</b>		
N/A	Not a controlled drug	▼
<b>Approval History</b>		
	Drug history at FDA	▼
<b>WADA Class</b>		
	Anti-Doping Classification	▼

## User Reviews & Ratings

8.9 / 10

[17 Reviews](#)

## Images

[Foradil 12 mcg \(CG FXF\)](#)

# Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



## About

[About Drugs.com](#)  
[Advertising policy](#)  
[Attribution & citations](#)

## Terms & privacy

[Terms of use](#)  
[Editorial policy](#)  
[Privacy policy](#)

## Support

[Help center](#)  
[Sitemap](#)  
[Contact us](#)



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

**Drugs.com** provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Ad Choices  
ADVERTISEMENT



Copyright © 2000-2025 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.