

### Inhaled steroid medications

- Because of manufacturer shortages of some inhaled steroids, the VA has selected flunisolide (Aerobid) as the preferred inhaled steroid.
- Your doctor or pharmacist has chosen flunisolide as the inhaled steroid to treat your asthma or COPD (emphysema or chronic bronchitis) and is to be used in place of beclomethasone (Vanceril/Beclovent) or triamcinolone (Azmacort).
- In addition to reading the drug name, the color might be helpful to distinguish between inhalers. This table lists the different inhaled steroids and the colors of the mouthpiece and caps.

<b>Drug</b>	<b>Trade name</b>	<b>Colors</b>
Flunisolide (available in regular and menthol flavored)	Aerobid	Gray mouthpiece with purple cap
	Aerobid-M	White mouthpiece with green cap
Beclomethasone	Vanceril (Schering)	Pink mouthpiece with maroon cap
	Beclovent (Glaxo)	Tan mouthpiece with dark brown cap
Triamcinolone	Azmacort	White mouthpiece with white spacer
Fluticasone	Flovent	Dark orange mouthpiece with peach cap

- Some inhaled steroids are used three or four times a day. Flunisolide is used only twice a day.
- Inhaled steroids are not used for quick relief of asthma attacks. They are used to help prevent asthma attacks from happening.
- Read the patient instructions that come with the package. If you are not sure how to use the inhaler, ask your pharmacist or other health care provider to show you what to do.