



CIRCULAR H 64 /2020

**TO: DDG: CHIEF OF OPERATIONS
CHIEF DIRECTORS; DIRECTORS; HEADS OF INSTITUTIONS
MANAGER: CAPE MEDICAL DEPOT
HEAD OF HEALTH: CITY OF CAPE TOWN
RESPONSIBLE PHARMACIST: CHRONIC DISPENSING UNIT**

N.B. FOR CIRCULATION TO ALL MEDICAL, PARAMEDICAL, PHARMACEUTICAL AND NURSING PERSONNEL

SALBUTAMOL 100µg PER METERED DOSE INHALER AND PREDNISONE TABLETS 5MG

People with respiratory disease such as asthma may be at higher risk of getting severely ill from COVID-19; and loss of asthma control.

Asthma attacks can progress rapidly; thus, patients should be encouraged to remain aware of their symptoms, maintain excellent control and ensure adequate supply of their medicines. Social distancing is important for these patients and should be promoted as far as possible. Furthermore, access to facilities has been compromised with the de-escalation & restrictions on public transport.

For these reasons, the restriction to dispense one salbutamol 100µg per metered dose inhaler every alternate month (as per Circular H13/2016) is rescinded until the end of October 2020. Patients may receive a metered dose inhaler every month. Importantly; they must be reminded to be meticulous with the regular use of their "controller" medications as the reliance on short acting salbutamol alone will be detrimental to their control. Patients should be educated to manage minor attacks and if their asthma worsens, to seek medical care. Patients should also be educated on COVID-19 symptoms.

Your co-operation in this regard is appreciated.

MS K LOWENHERZ

DIRECTOR: PHARMACY SERVICES

DATE: 30/04/20