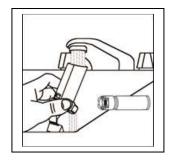


University of Maryland Pediatric Pulmonology/Allergy 410-706-2443



## **Cleaning Your HFA Inhaler**

New inhalers contain a gas called HFA. It can build up in the nozzle and clog the inhaler. It is very important to keep the inhaler clean. If your inhaler clogs, it won't work.

## Keep your inhaler clean:

- 1. Take the metal canister out of the plastic mouth piece.
- 2. Wash the mouth piece in warm water for 30 seconds.
- 3. Do **NOT** wash the medicine canister. Do **NOT** let it get wet.
- 4. Let the mouth piece dry thoroughly.
- 5. Place the canister back into the mouth piece before use.
- 6. Wash your inhaler mouth piece once a week.

## <u>"Prime" your HFA inhaler:</u>

"Prime" your HFA inhaler if you have not used it in awhile.

"Prime" it by shaking the inhaler and then spraying a "test" spray or two in the air. Keep the spray away from your eyes. Different inhalers have different instructions for priming. Ask if you are not sure how to prime your inhaler.

"Prime" your inhaler IF:

- 1. It is the first time you have used it
- 2. It's been a week since the last use
- 3. You drop the inhaler