

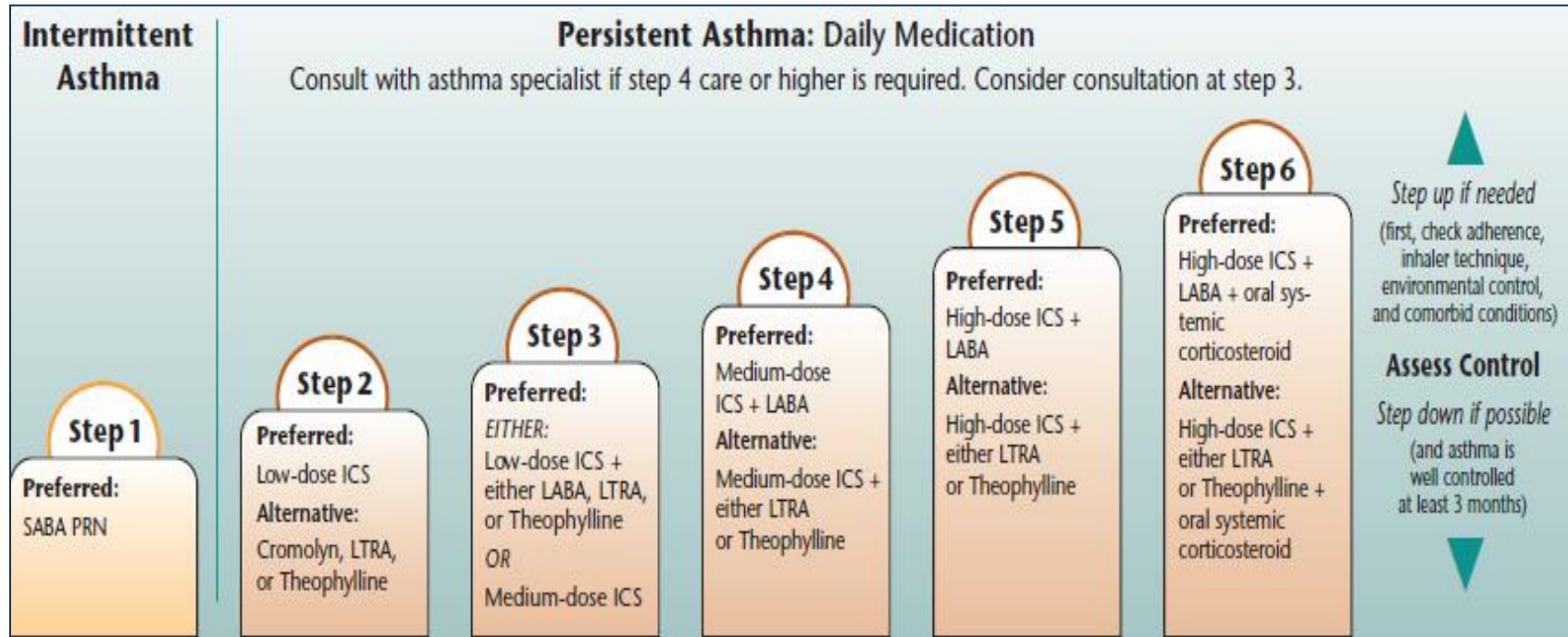
## Common Asthma Medications Seen In School

### Beta2-Agonist Bronchodilator MDIs (Metered Dose Inhalers)

Brand Name	ProAir® HFA	ProAir RespiClick® (Dry Powder Inhaler)	Proventil® HFA	Ventolin® HFA	Xopenex® HFA
Total Doses (Actuations)	200	200	200	200	200 or 80
Dose Counter	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Number of priming sprays	3	No Shaking or Priming Needed	4	4	4
Shake and Re-prime if dropped	No	No Shaking or Priming Needed	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Shake and Re-prime if not used within</b>	<b>14 Days</b>	<b>No Shaking or Priming Needed</b>	<b>14 Days</b>	<b>14 Days</b>	<b>3 Days</b>
Generic Name	Albuterol Sulfate	Albuterol Sulfate	Albuterol Sulfate	Albuterol Sulfate	Levalbuterol Tartrate

- Short Acting Beta 2 Agonists (SABA) are quick acting bronchodilators that work within 15-20 minutes to relieve bronchospasm.
- They are also called Rescue medicines or Puffers.
- Side effects may include: nervous or shaky feeling, increased heart rate or palpitations, upset stomach, trouble sleeping
- MDIs should be maintained and primed according to the manufacturer's instructions in order for the proper dose of medication to be delivered. This includes periodically cleaning HFA actuator, as the drug may plug orifice.
- Using a valved holding chamber with the metered-dose inhaler assists with effective delivery
- Using SABA >2 days a week for symptom relief (not including prevention of Exercise Induced Bronchospasm -EIB), generally indicates inadequate control of asthma and the need for initiating or intensifying anti-inflammatory therapy
- HFA (Hydrofluoroalkane) is the propellant in the inhaler

# Stepwise Approach for Managing Asthma



- The type, amount, and timing of medication are determined by the level of asthma severity or asthma control.
- Therapy is stepped up as needed and stepped down when possible.
- ICSs are the most consistently effective anti-inflammatory therapy for all age groups, at all steps of care for persistent asthma and the preferred first line treatment that results in improved asthma control
- Spacers/holding chambers should be used with metered dose inhalers (MDIs).
- **Short-Acting** bronchodilators work within 15-20 minutes after you take them so that you feel relief from symptoms quickly.
- **Long-Acting** bronchodilators have effects that last a long time. They should not be used for quick relief. These medications are only recommended for use when combined with an anti-inflammatory asthma medicine.

## Acronyms for Types of Asthma Medication

SABA	Inhaled short-acting beta2-agonist
LABA	Inhaled long-acting beta2-agonist
ICS	Inhaled corticosteroid
LTRA	Leukotriene receptor antagonist

**Reference:** Clinical Guideline for the Diagnosis, Evaluation, and Management of Adults and Children with Asthma – 2017  
 NYSDOH, Asthma Information <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/asthma/brochures.htm>