

What is Ensifentrine?

- ✓ Ensifentrine (brand name Ohtuvayre™) was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in June 2024. It is used to treat chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).
- ✓ Ensifentrine is unique among COPD medications because it accomplishes two different things:
 - ❑ It relaxes the muscles around the airways. Medications that relax these muscles are called bronchodilators.
 - ❑ It decreases inflammation. Steroids are often used to decrease inflammation in COPD. Ensifentrine is not a steroid.
- ✓ Ensifentrine is in a class of drugs called phosphodiesterase (PDE) inhibitors. Ensifentrine inhibits two different PDE pathways: PDE3 and PDE4. By inhibiting two different pathways, ensifentrine acts as both a bronchodilator and an anti-inflammatory medication.
- ✓ Ensifentrine is administered via nebulizer. It takes about 5 to 7 minutes to administer this drug.
- ✓ AlphaNet does not formally endorse or discourage the use of ensifentrine.

What are the Expected Benefits?

- ✓ Ensifentrine has been shown to improve lung function and quality of life. It has also been shown to reduce shortness of breath and number of exacerbations.
- ✓ The reduction in exacerbations was found even in individuals who were taking other medications for COPD.
- ✓ For individuals who do not notice that they feel better after taking ensifentrine, it is important to recognize that this medication helps prevent exacerbations. A reduction in exacerbations is very important. Exacerbations can lead to disease progression, morbidity, and death.

What are the Common Side Effects?

- ✓ The most common side effects seen in the ensifentrine studies were back pain, high blood pressure, bladder infection, and diarrhea. This is not a complete list of all possible side effects.
- ✓ Ensifentrine may have fewer side effects than many other COPD medications. However, the number of people using this medication is small. Additional side effects may become known after a drug has been on the market for some time. For example, it took about 15 years to determine that inhaled corticosteroids have an elevated risk for pneumonia.
- ✓ Ensifentrine has less risk for nausea and diarrhea than PDE4 inhibitors such as Roflumilast.

Is Ensifentrine Taken in Place of Other COPD Medications?

- ✓ Ensifentrine is currently considered an “adjunctive” therapy. This means that it is typically taken in addition to other COPD medications. Individuals typically would not stop taking their existing COPD medications when ensifentrine is prescribed.
- ✓ The main types of existing COPD medications are long-acting beta-agonists (LABA), long-acting muscarinic antagonists (LAMA), and inhaled corticosteroids (ICS). If additional exacerbations occur while on LABA/LAMA/ICS medications, then a trial of ensifentrine may be worthwhile.
- ✓ Your healthcare provider can help determine whether ensifentrine could be useful for you.

How Much Does Ensifentrine Cost?

- ✓ Ensifentrine, like many new drugs, is expensive. A month of therapy (60 vials for the nebulizer) out of pocket has an average wholesale price of \$2950.
- ✓ Because it is a nebulized drug, individuals with Medicare (but not most Medicare Advantage Plans) can get this medication through Part B of their Medicare benefits. Part B services (hospitalizations, nebulized medications, and IV products) are covered at 80% of cost and supplemental plans may cover the remainder of the cost.
- ✓ Your insurance may deny this medication; therefore, inquire about insurance coverage before trying this medication.