Claims

1. The use of N,N-*bis*-2-mercaptoethyl isophthalamide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

2. A use as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the dose of N,N-*bis*-2-mercaptoethyl isophthalamide or salt thereof that is administered is capable of regenerating ascorbate systemically.

3. A use as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the treatment reduces the risk of respiratory morbidity and/or mortality in a patient.

4. The use of N,N-*bis*-2-mercaptoethyl isophthalamide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for a method of relieving one or more symptom of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in a patient suffering therefrom.

5. A use as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the symptom is skeletal muscle fatigue and/or cough/sputum production.

6. A use as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the method of treatment is of patient that is a smoker or is an ex-smoker.

7. A use as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the patient is also receiving therapy which comprises administration of an active ingredient selected from a bronchodilator, an anticholinergic drug, or a corticosteroid.