**18-Oct-22    ES-02: Mean Carbon Emissions Per Salbutamol Inhaler Prescribed (kg CO2e)**
Sent on behalf of Vasu Siva, GP Partner & Clinical Lead for Green Agenda

Dear Colleagues,

Salbutamol MDIs are the single biggest source of carbon emissions from NHS medicines prescribing. Where a salbutamol inhaler is required, this indicator encourages PCNs to consider prescribing a lower carbon option. This does not necessarily mean changing the type of inhaler that the patient receives (e.g. MDI to DPI), since different salbutamol MDI inhalers can have different carbon emissions. If MDI is required for the patient, for instance when DPI is not indicated, prescribing a lower carbon salbutamol MDI will reduce overall carbon emissions without compromising patient safety or disease control.

Efforts made towards meeting this indicator should also be complementary in helping to meet asthma and COPD indicators in the QOF.

This week, the focus is on how to safely switch high carbon inhalers to lower carbon inhalers, in particular when prescribing salbutamol MDI inhalers.

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| **ACTIVITY: Environmental sustainability (ES 02)** |
| **What is the activity?**  | * When prescribing salbutamol MDI inhalers, prescribe lower carbon emission inhalers (kg CO2e per inhaler). For example, Salamol pMDI (11.95) instead of Ventolin Evohaler pMDI (28.26)
* (Volumatic spacer device is compatible with Salamol pMDI)
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| **What are the benefits of the activity?** **(GP surgery, staff, patients, community, environment)**  | * Same medicine & device, but lower carbon footprint without compromising patient safety or disease control
* Reduces overall carbon emissions
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| **How to carry out the activity?** **Ardens** **Ealing GP Fed**   | * Create a list of patients aged 12yrs & over with asthma on repeat prescription for Ventolin Evohaler pMDI (do make use of the searches created by Ardens or Ealing GP Fed)
* Contact all patients on the list (e.g. via MJOG) with explanation of change & [Patient Information Leaflet](https://s40639.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/Canva-SALAMOL.pdf)

  * Send a follow-up SMS to all patients 4-6 weeks after the change to encourage patients having issues to get in touch
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| **How would this be measured?**  | * Monitor your progress by repeating the searches
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| **What are the benefits/award once you have completed the activity?**  | * IIF 2022/23 ES 02 activity completed & financial benefits
* Sustainable environment & NHS
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| **How will this be reported?**  | * Achievement of the IIF targets
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**Helpful Resources:**

[Device choice](https://www.greenerpractice.co.uk/high-quality-and-low-carbon-asthma-care/projects/device-choice/)

[Salamol Poster](https://s40639.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/Canva-SALAMOL.pdf): Inform patients of the reasons for the change of inhalers

[Disposal of inhalers](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fbjgplife.com%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2021%2F10%2FHow-to-dispose-used-and-unwanted-inhalers.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK): Inform patients to return inhalers to their pharmacy

[Ventolin Evohaler pMDI to Salamol pMDI](https://www.greenerpractice.co.uk/high-quality-and-low-carbon-asthma-care/projects/device-choice/5-ventolin-evohaler-pmdi-to-salamol-pmdi-or-airomir-pmdi/)

[Short videos](https://www.greenerpractice.co.uk/high-quality-and-low-carbon-asthma-care/education/): Refresh your knowledge of asthma diagnosis, how to optimise disease control, low carbon inhaler prescribing, inhaler disposal and how to integrate all of these in an asthma review