**24-Oct-22    Safe Switch to Low Carbon Inhalers - Device Change (ES 01)**  
Sent on behalf of Vasu Siva, GP Partner & Clinical Lead for Green Agenda

Dear Colleagues,  
  
The NHS has committed to reduce its carbon footprint, including a shift to lower carbon inhalers. DPIs and SMIs are less harmful to the environment than traditional MDIs.  
   
The 2022-2023 PCN Investment and Impact Fund [includes an indicator](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/network-contract-directed-enhanced-service-investment-and-impact-fund-2022-23-updated-guidance/) focusing on the percentage of non-salbutamol MDI prescriptions issued. The aim of the NHS England is that, in line with best practice in other European countries, by 2023/24 only 25% of non-salbutamol inhalers prescribed will be MDIs. [NICE has produced an inhaler decision aid](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng80/resources/inhalers-for-asthma-patient-decision-aid-pdf-6727144573) to facilitate discussion about inhaler options.  
   
Feedback suggests that the majority of asthma patients using MDIs would change device for environmental reasons as long as the new inhaler was efficacious, easy to use and fitted their current routine, and that they could change back if needed. Optimising the choice of inhaler, as part of a shared decision making conversation between patient and the clinician, plays a significant role in achieving the NHS net zero target.  
   
At every opportunity encourage patients/carers to return any unwanted/used inhalers to the pharmacy for more sustainable disposal. Efforts made towards meeting this indicator would also be complementary in helping to meet asthma and COPD indicators in the QOF.  
   
**ES-01: MDI prescriptions as a percentage of all non-salbutamol inhaler prescriptions issued to patients aged 12 or over**

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| **ACTIVITY: Safe switch to low carbon inhalers - device change (ES 01)** | |
| **What is the activity?** | * Decrease the use of MDIs by prescribing DPIs & SMIs where clinically appropriate * Agree with patient through a shared decision making conversation |
| **What are the benefits of the activity?**  **(GP surgery, staff, patients, community, environment)** | * Reduce environmental carbon emissions without compromising patient safety or disease control |
| **How to carry out the activity?**   **Ardens:**       **Ealing GP Fed:** | * Create a list of non-salbutamol inhaler prescriptions issued to patients aged 12yrs and over (X); Do make use of the searches created by Ardens or Ealing GP Fed * Of (X), identify the number of MDI prescriptions * Exclude those patients to whom the DPI/SMIs is not indicated * Carry out individualised, shared decision-making conversation with patients & their carers * Reassure patients that the aim is to improve disease control whilst also reducing environmental impact * Review all device changes at approx. 4-6 weeks, ideally face-to-face or via video if needed to check inhaler technique. If disease control worsens due to changing inhalers then review the choices, including whether to return to the previous inhaler. * Ideally patients should be on the same device type for preventer and reliever. Inhalers should be prescribed by brand name as devices are not interchangeable |
| **How would this be measured?** | * Monitor your progress by repeating the searches |
| **What are the benefits/award once you have completed the activity?** | * Improved disease control whilst reducing environmental impact * IIF 2022/23 ES 01 activity completed & financial benefits * Sustainable environment & NHS |
| **How will this be reported?** | * Achievement of the IIF targets |

**Helpful Resources:**  
   
[Safe switch to low carbon inhalers - device change](https://www.greenerpractice.co.uk/high-quality-and-low-carbon-asthma-care/projects/device-choice/2-whole-team-approach-to-offering-patients-a-low-carbon-inhaler-device/)  
   
[Device choice](https://www.greenerpractice.co.uk/high-quality-and-low-carbon-asthma-care/projects/device-choice/)  
   
[Carbon footprint of inhalers](https://greeninhaler724562029.files.wordpress.com/2021/10/cs53277-reducing-carbon-footprint-of-inhaler-prescribing.v4.pdf)  
   
[environmental impact of inhalers](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJ2MT2cjTS8) and [optimising asthma reviews](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clDhs_GfGlU)  
   
Utilise [Green Inhaler](https://greeninhaler.org/) resources as an educational tool for both patients and staff