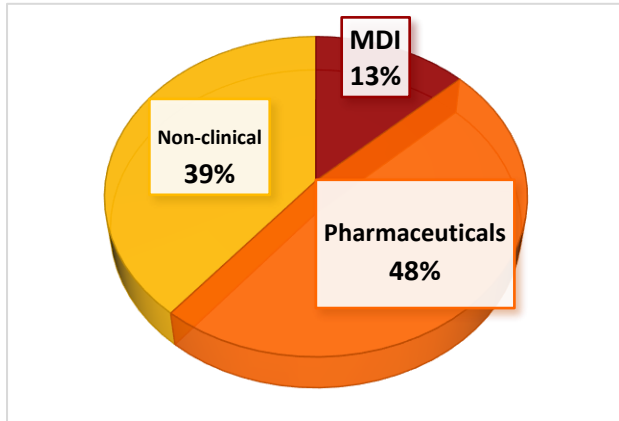


SUPPORT FOR MORE SUSTAINABLE PRESCRIBING OF MEDICINES

Hello, this is the first of a new quarterly bulletin to keep you updated with more sustainable prescribing in Gloucestershire. The NHS has committed to reducing its carbon footprint by 51% by 2025 to meet the target in the Climate Change Act & to be net zero by 2040 (*this refers to the carbon footprint- the equivalent of kilograms of carbon dioxide CO2 generated by all our activities which directly impacts on global heating*). We have teamed up with the ICS Medicines Optimisation team to raise awareness of prescribing measures that will help Gloucestershire

ICS meet these targets.



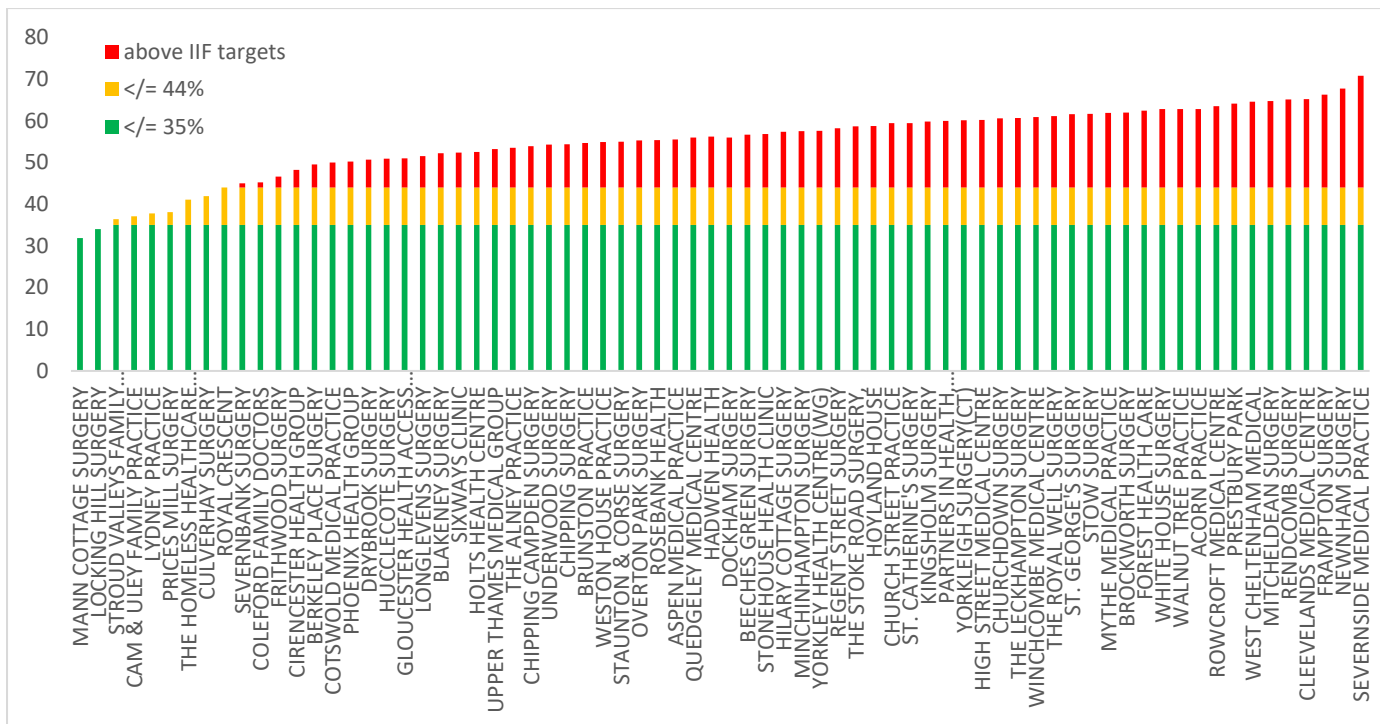
In primary care where 78% of medicines prescribing takes place, pharmaceuticals are responsible for 48% of the carbon footprint & metered dose inhalers contribute a further 13%.³

Environmental Impact of Inhalers by practices in NHS GLOUCESTERSHIRE⁴

Why it matters: a shift to dry powdered inhalers (DPI) will deliver a reduction of 4% in the NHS’ carbon footprint. DPIs and other newer types of inhalers (like soft mist inhalers) are

less harmful to the environment than traditional metered dose inhalers MDIs. [NICE has produced a inhaler decision aid](#) to facilitate discussion about inhaler options. Inhaler carbon footprints are taken into consideration in the [Gloucestershire Formulary asthma and COPD inhaler recommendations](#). Ardens has flagged low carbon inhalers on its asthma template.

Description: MDIs prescribed as a proportion of all inhalers in BNF Chapter 3, excluding salbutamol⁴



This is data from open prescribing up until *end of November 2021*. Some practices have already achieved the upper threshold of 35% & as we progress through the year, we hope to see more turning all green.

SUPPORT FOR MORE SUSTAINABLE PRESCRIBING OF MEDICINES

There is lots of support available to help with patient discussion & changing patients where clinically appropriate. This document can be used in waiting rooms/websites to raise awareness https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-2P_LdRoXL-3-uKLucwN8AAU9Os9duje?rtpof=true&authuser=greenerpracticeglos%40gmail.com&usp=drive_fs

To really make changes, why not join the many GP practices that have signed up to the Greener Practice toolkit? <https://www.greenerpractice.co.uk/gifh-audit>

Congratulations to the Practices who have already signed up:

- Aspen Medical Practice
- Cam and Uley Family Practice
- Cirencester Health Group
- Coleford Health Centre
- Frithwood Surgery
- Hadwen Health
- Kingsway Health Centre
- Leckhampton Surgery
- Locking Hill Surgery
- Price's Mill Surgery
- Royal Crescent Surgery
- The Chipping Surger
- The Wye Valley Practice
- Walnut Tree Practice
- Westbury Surgery

BRONZE AWARD

SILVER AWARD

GOLD AWARD

Consider joining the Gloucestershire Greener Practice group contact greenerpracticeglos@gmail.com . We have bimonthly evening meetings & welcome new members.

In the next bulletin we will have an inhaler update as well as some information on deprescribing & the ICS Green plan.

1. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/greenernhs/a-net-zero-nhs/>
2. Health care's response to climate change: a carbon footprint assessment of the NHS in England [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(20\)30271-0/fulltext#sec1](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(20)30271-0/fulltext#sec1)
3. The NHS Carbon footprint <https://www.fph.org.uk/media/3126/k9-fph-sig-nhs-carbon-footprint-final.pdf>
4. https://openprescribing.net/ccg/11M/environmental_inhalers/