

FOR A GREENER

LLR Resources to Support Sustainable Respiratory Prescribing and Management

- 3% of all greenhouse gas emissions generated by the NHS come from the inhalers, the greatest contributor is pressurised metered dose inhalers, most of which being short acting beta agonists (SABA).¹
- In October 2020, the NHS became the world's first health service to commit to 'Delivering a Net Zero NHS by 2040' and published a report detailing how to achieve that. For respiratory, the report outlines the importance of focusing on long term disease control, reducing inappropriate SABA use, optimising low carbon options where possible, and responsible disposal of inhalers.¹
- Based on August to October 2024 prescribing data, if 25% of Ventolin Evohaler (including generic salbutamol pMDI) were changed to Easyhaler Salbutamol (DPI) inhalers across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, the reduction in carbon footprint over 12 months would be 1,552,154 kg CO₂ e – the equivalent to approximately 162 journeys around the Earth in an average car!^{2,3}
- **This document lists all the local, and some national, resources we have available across LLR to support practices improve clinical outcomes in patients and reduce the climate change impact associated with prescribing and use of inhalers.**

Optimise Clinical Management of Patient

[LLR Asthma Adult Guidelines](#)⁴

[LLR Asthma Guidelines for Children Aged 5 to 17 years](#)⁴

[LLR COPD Medicines Management Guidelines](#)⁴

[Asthma and COPD Clinic Checklists available on SystmOne and EMIS web](#)

[LLR My COPD Self-Management Information](#)⁴

[LLR My COPD Self-Management Plan](#)⁴

Optimise Inhaler Prescribing and Technique

[LLR Inhaler Formulary](#)⁴

This now includes which inhalers have a low or high carbon footprint.

[LLR Inhaler Device Decision Aid for Adults with Asthma and/or COPD](#)⁴

Highlights essential considerations when selecting suitable inhaler devices in patients, and guides prescribers through that process for new and existing patients.

[LLR Inhaler Greener Alternatives Medicines Optimisation Tool for Adults](#)⁴

Includes alternative low carbon inhalers to those with high carbon footprints that are commonly used across LLR.

[LLR Assessing Inhaler Technique Virtually](#)⁴

Provides detailed guidance on how to conduct inhaler technique assessments, and includes probing questions to ask patients, for where it is not possible to conduct a face-to-face review.

[Asthma UK: Inhaler Videos](#)^{4,5}

Videos can be viewed together with the patient during a consultation or links can be sent by email or text to patients for the various inhaler devices available.

[Inhaler Technique Poster – Think Green](#) ⁴

[Patient Information Leaflet - Inhalers](#) ⁴

Dedicated webpage for signposting all residents and carers on aspects of inhaler use and care:

[Inhalers - LLR ICB](#) ⁶

Identify Patients on High Carbon SABAs and pMDIs

[Eclipse VISTA Pathways searches](#) ⁷

For priority groups, e.g., asthma with 6 or more salbutamol inhalers in the last 12 months, prescribed MDIs, very high / high / medium / low CO2 emissions – identifies patients for review.

'VISTA Pathways' > Click 'View' for 'Asthma' or 'COPD' or 'Carbon Optimisation' > 'Priority Patients'



VISTA Pathways



Asthma

OR



COPD

OR

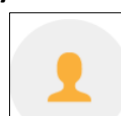


Carbon Optimisation

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View

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Priority Patients

Reduce Waste and Improve Disposal of Inhalers

[Think Green Poster – Use and Disposal of Inhalers](#) ⁴

[Patient Information Leaflet - Inhalers](#) ⁴

[Inhalers - LLR ICB](#) ⁶

Dedicated webpage for signposting all residents and carers on aspects of inhaler use and care.

Make patients aware they must return their empty or unwanted inhalers to a pharmacy for appropriate disposal as clinical waste.

Other Resources

[Partner toolkit – LLR ICB](#) ⁸

Scroll down to:

Improving inhaler technique – Toolkit to support local partners with the promotion of a local improving inhaler technique and care public campaign.

[Greener Practice Asthma Toolkit - High Quality and Low Carbon Asthma Care](#) ⁹

[PrescQIPP Bulletin 295 - Inhaler Carbon Footprint](#) ²

[Open Prescribing](#) ¹⁰

Respiratory Prescribing Measures:

Environmental impact of inhalers – average carbon footprint per salbutamol inhaler
Environmental impact of inhalers – prescribing of non-salbutamol Metered Dose Inhalers (MDIs)
High dose inhaled corticosteroids
Short acting beta agonist inhalers

References

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2. PrescQIPP Bulletin 295: Inhaler Carbon Footprint. October 2021; 2.2. Accessed on 20/10/2023 from: <https://www.prescqipp.info/our-resources/bulletins/bulletin-295-inhaler-carbon-footprint/>
3. Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator. United States Environmental Protection Agency. July 2023. Accessed on 03/01/2025 from: <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>
4. Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Area Prescribing Committee website > Guidelines > Guidelines by Category > Respiratory System from: <https://www.areaprescribingcommitteeleicesterleicestershirerutland.nhs.uk/guidelines/category/respiratory/>
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9. High Quality and Low Carbon Asthma Care A toolkit to support quality improvement in primary care. Greener Practice. Accessed on 03/01/2025 from: <https://www.greenerpractice.co.uk/high-quality-and-low-carbon-asthma-care/>
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