



Coventry and Warwickshire APC update: [Reducing carbon footprint of Inhalers](#)

Coventry and Warwickshire Area Prescribing Committee (C&W APC) provide the following recommendations regarding reducing the carbon footprint of inhalers. Further information can be found in the local guidance and in the [PrescQIPP bulletin 295: Inhaler Carbon footprint](#). This assists the delivery of targets to support the wider NHS commitments for lowering the carbon footprint from inhalers as stated in the Investment and Impact Fund of the Primary Care Network Direct Enhanced Services contract.

Actions for Practices:

- **Blanket switching of device type or medication is not recommended as individual patient needs and suitability must be considered.**
- Review patients' inhalers annually (ideally face-to-face or virtually), consider the environmental impact of each patient's inhalers and check inhaler technique.
- Optimise asthma and COPD care following local and national guidelines.
- If switching inhalers, ensure shared decision making with the patient, prescribe inhalers by brand name, assess and optimise inhaler technique (signpost to inhaler technique videos and patient leaflets to support patient adherence e.g. RightBreathe®, Asthma UK®, PrescQIPP®), and follow-up patient.
- If starting a new inhaler or switching inhalers, offer dry powder inhalers (DPIs) or soft mist inhalers (SMIs) as first choice where clinically appropriate. Refer to the [NICE Patient decision aid](#) for options.
- If prescribing a pressurised metered dose inhaler (pMDI), select the brand and regime using the [C&W APC net Formulary](#) with care to minimise the carbon footprint of the inhaler. Refer to the CO₂ emission data as outlined in the C&W APC net Formulary.
- Ask patients to return all used or unwanted inhalers to community pharmacies for disposal.



Reminder: MedOptimise® individual access for Primary Care Practice staff

A reminder that MedOptimise® is now available to access by individual GP practice staff. This web-based medicines optimisation system provides useful prescribing data and analysis tools to support practices with optimising prescribing at practice, PCN and ICB level.

To obtain a login (if you do not currently have one), contact the Medicines Optimisation team via email at agcsu.medicines@nhs.net, include your name, email address, PCN name or practice name (to ensure you have access to your local data), professional status (i.e. GP, Pharmacist) and a contact telephone number (preferably mobile). For further information and support on MedOptimise®, contact the Medicines Optimisation team.



Reminder: Specialist Pharmacy Services - [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

A reminder to check the Medicines Supply Tool hosted by the Specialist Pharmacy Services (SPS) for up-to-date information on medicines supply issues. Supply information is provided by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).

The tool provides a list of medications that are out of stock, the severity of the shortage impact, shortage start dates and anticipated resolution dates. The tool also provides useful alternative medicine recommendations and suggested actions. The [C&W APC net Formulary](#) should be consulted for local prescribing information where appropriate. The tool can be accessed by registering with [the SPS website](#).

Medicines with current supply issues include: Alendronic acid 70mg tablets, EpiPen®, Oxybutynin 3.9mg/24hours transdermal patches, Mesalazine (Asacol®) MR gastro-resistant tablets, and Varenicline 0.5mg and 1mg tablets.

Contact Medicines Optimisation:



agcsu.medicines@nhs.net



www.ardengemcsu.nhs.uk