

Greener Primary Care - Inhalers: Quality Improvement in 2023/24

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What was the Problem?

- Traditional meter dose inhalers (MDI's) contain hydrofluoroalkanes (HFA) propellants which have significant global warming potential being far more potent than carbon dioxide.
- Most inhalers prescribed in the UK are of this type, newer inhalers such as dry powder inhalers (DPI's) or soft mist inhalers have significantly less global warming potential.

Who was involved?

- All clinical team, Doctors, Community Pharmacists, Respiratory nurse and prescribing clerks.

Aim: What did we try to accomplish?

- Switching inhalers from MDI's to DPI's where appropriate.
- Reduce over reliance on short acting beta agonist inhalers such as, Ventolin in accordance with clinical guidelines.
- Through respiratory clinic appointments inform patients of the need for change, and demonstrate how to use DPI's.
- Monitor our performance via the AWTTTC (All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre) SPIRA (Server for Prescribing Information Reporting and Analysis) website.

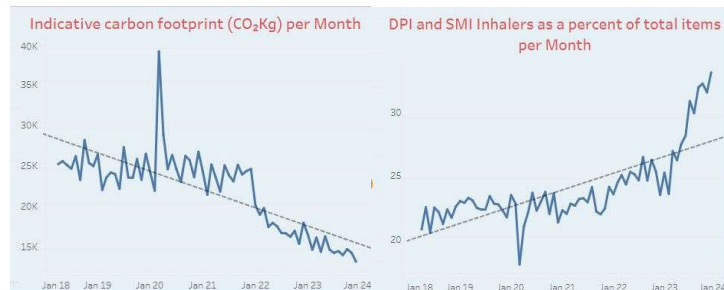
Measures: How would we know that a change is an improvement?

- By monitoring the decarbonisation dashboard on the AWTTCC website.

Changes: what changes did we make that could result in an improvement?

- We have a Practice Nurse with an interest in respiratory illness that runs the asthma and COPD clinics.
- The wider clinical team (GP's, Nurse Practitioner, Practice Nurses) have undertaken training provided by Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB) Pharmacy Team on the AWTTTC prescribing guidelines and lower global warming impact inhalers.
- In conjunction with the SBUHB Pharmacy Technicians identifying patients who can be safely switched from Ventolin evohaler to salamol which has significantly less global warming potential.
- Through medication reviews with the Community Pharmacist held within the practice we reviewed inhaler prescriptions, and where appropriate switch to more environmentally friendly forms.

What did we learn? What are the next steps?



- The two graphs above from the decarbonisation dashboard show our reduction in carbon footprint and increase in the percentage of DPI prescriptions as a proportion of all inhalers.
- We will continue to focus on these in the coming year.
- We will continue to endeavour to increase our percentage of DPI prescribing, and educate patients in their use of the new inhalers and inform them of the importance of switching to lower green house gas potential preparations.

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Cluster/Collaborative: **Upper Valleys Cluster**
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