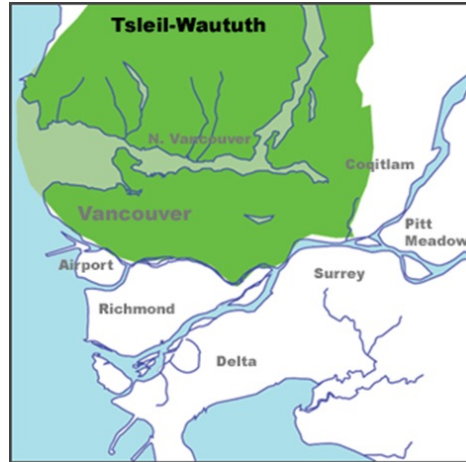
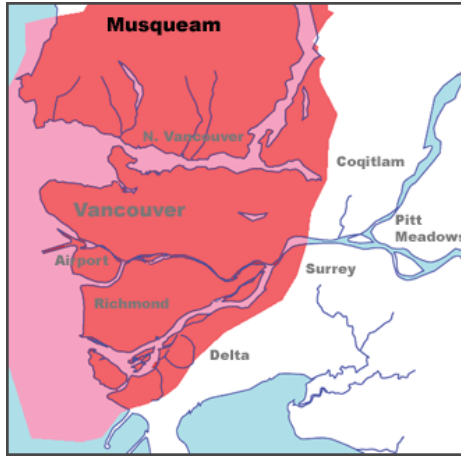


We would like to acknowledge that we are gathered today on the traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

Source: www.ichomaps.net/na/canada/bc/vancouver/firstnations/firstnations.html



Environmental impact of inhalers: turning **low-carbon** care into **high-quality** care

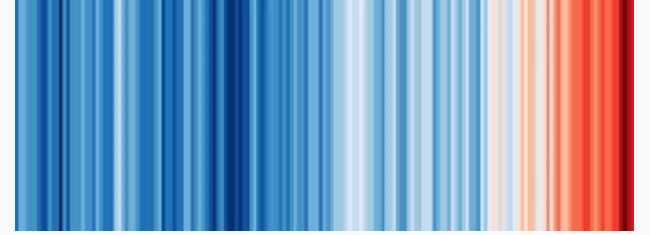
VCH Family & Community Practice Rounds



Kevin Liang, MD, CCFP
Sustainable Inhaler Initiative—Lead
November 15th, 2023

Disclosures

No industry-related financial disclosures



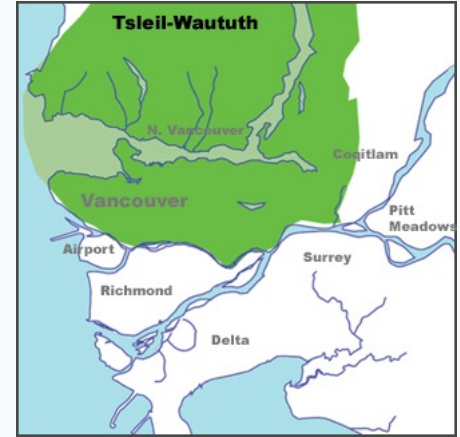
Mitigating Potential Bias

Only published trial data is presented

All recommendations are consistent with published up-to-date guidelines



Land Acknowledgement



I acknowledge that the land on which I gather is the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the x^wməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Objectives & Outline

1. Review the **environmental impact** of pressurized metered-dose inhaler (pMDIs)
2. Review **alternatives to pMDIs**, including opportunities to change patients to dry powered inhalers (DPIs) or soft mist inhalers (SMIs)
3. Discuss **current asthma and COPD guidelines** and how recommendations fit with inhaler device
4. Review **tools available** in BC and the costs of inhaler switches





CBC | MENU

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Science

Swap your inhaler, skip the laughing gas: How patients can help curb health-care emissions

f t e r in

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NEWS

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Health

Why switching asthma inhaler could be better for you and the planet



health Life, But Better Fitness Food Sleep Mindfulness Relationships

Asthma patients could slash their carbon footprint by switching to 'greener' inhalers

Home · News

A 139-km car trip: Fraser Health working to reduce climate impact of inhalers

B.C. doctor wants to educate people about switching to HFA-free inhalers

Lauren Collins
May 6, 2023 5:12 PM

f t in e

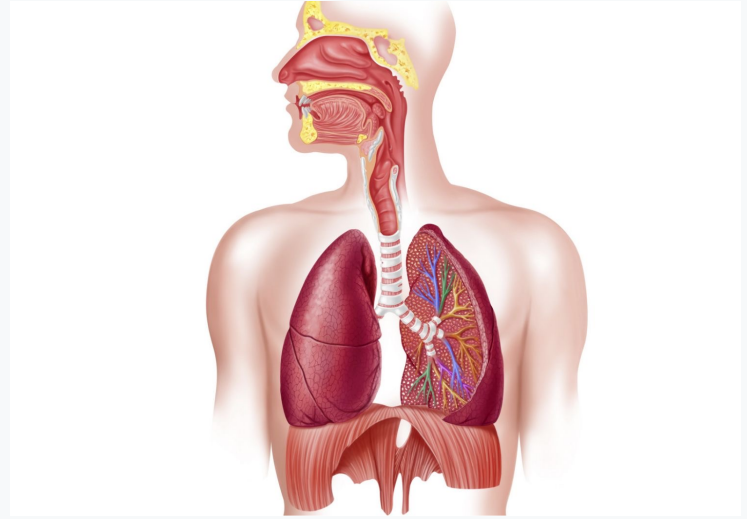
Nelson doctors working to reduce metered dose inhaler usage for planetary health

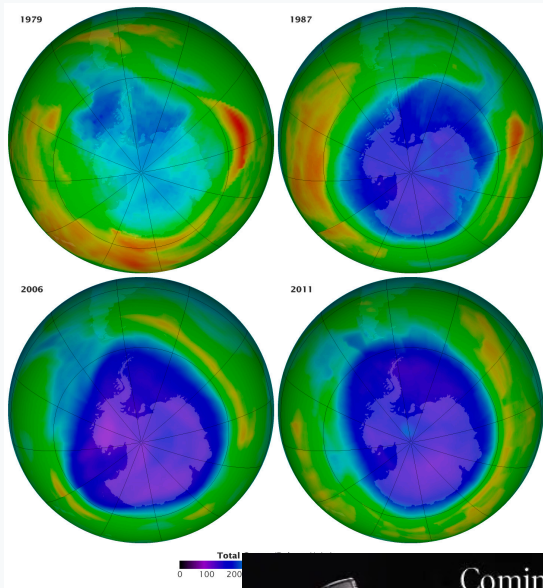
Doctors want patients to consider switching to dry powder inhalers

BLACK PRESS SUBMITTED / Mar. 22, 2023 11:30 a.m. / COMMUNITY

f t r e d



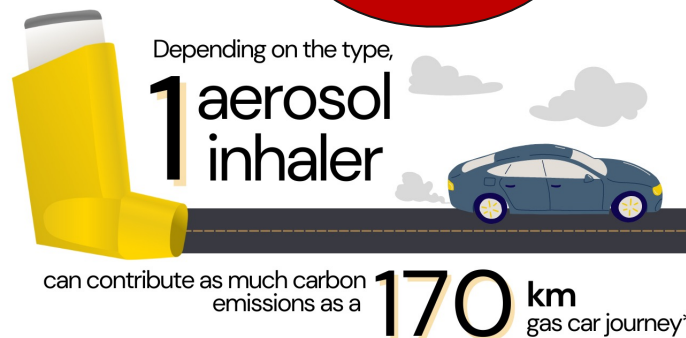




- Prior propellant CFC (chlorofluorocarbons) contributed to breakdown of ozone layer.
- Signing of the **Montréal Protocol in 1987** mandated elimination of CFC propellants. This prompted switch to HFA (hydrofluoroalkane).
- The global ban on CFC's put in place to help the ozone layer restore itself



Propellants in pMDIs are up to
to 3800 times more polluting
than carbon dioxide



*Stoynova V, Culley C. Detailed Inhaler Carbon Footprint Chart. Available from <https://cascadescanada.ca/resources/inhalers/>

pMDI



DPI

Diskus



Turbuhaler



Ellipta



Breezhaler



Handihaler



Respclick



Twisthaler



Inhub



Genuair



SMI



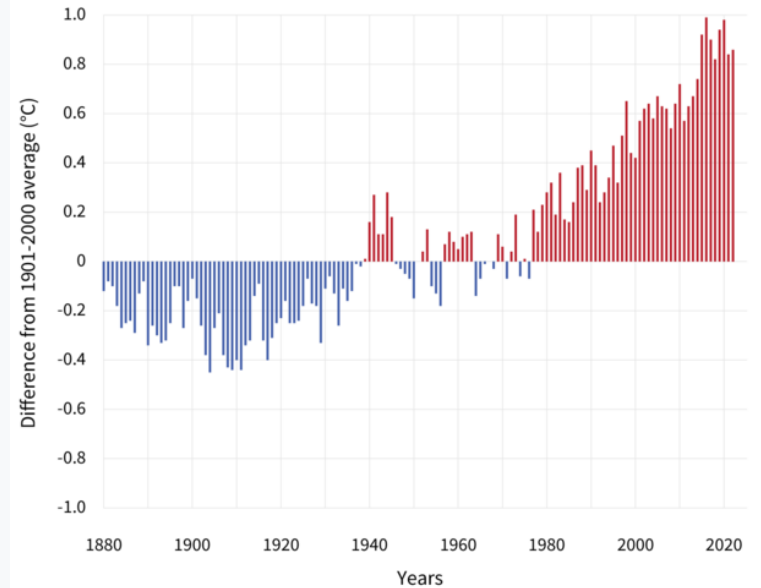
“CLIMATE CHANGE is the biggest global health threat of the 21st century”¹

We have experienced a global mean temperature rise of 1.2 C above pre-industrial levels¹

In Canada, climate change is leading to more extreme weather events, including:

- Heat waves
- Floods
- Droughts
- Wildfire

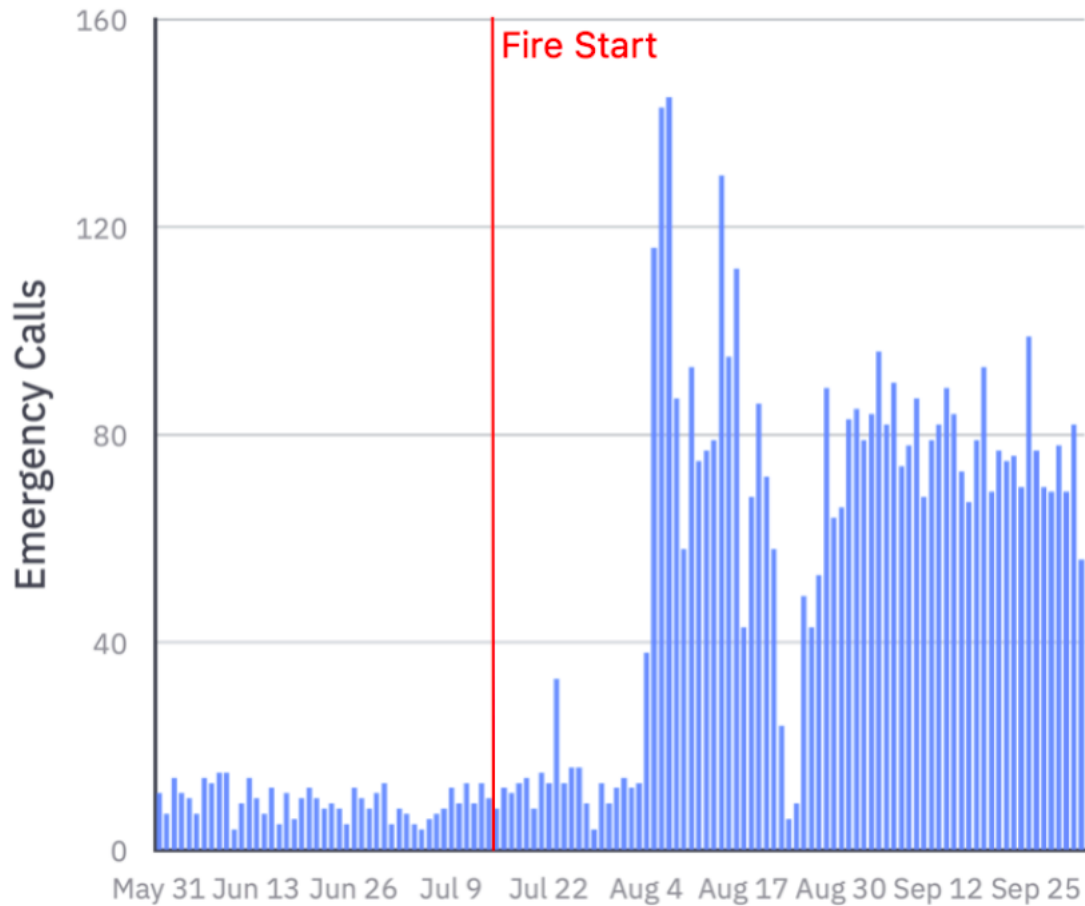
GLOBAL AVERAGE SURFACE TEMPERATURE

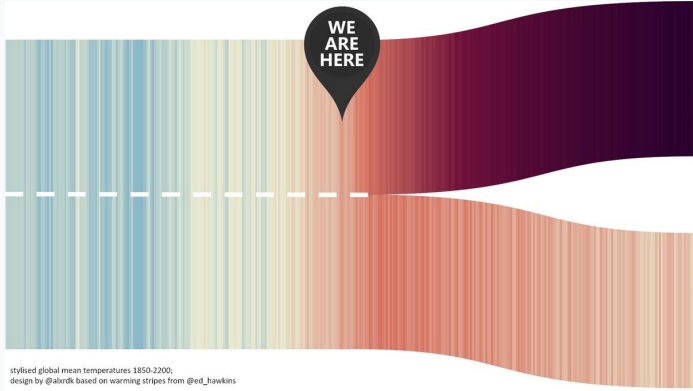


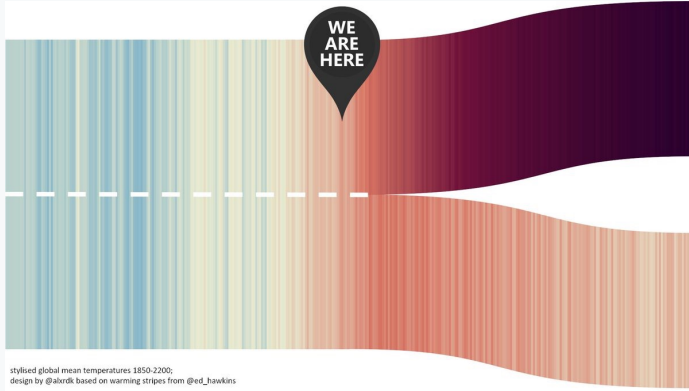
1. Wight J, Middleton J. Climate change: the greatest public health threat of the century. *BMJ*. 2019 Jun 3;365.
2. Watts N, Amann M, Arnell N, Ayeb-Karlsson S, Beagley J, Belesova K, Boykoff M, Byass P, Cai W, Campbell-Lendrum D, Capstick S. The 2020 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: responding to converging crises. *The Lancet*. 2021 Jan 9;397(10269):129-70.

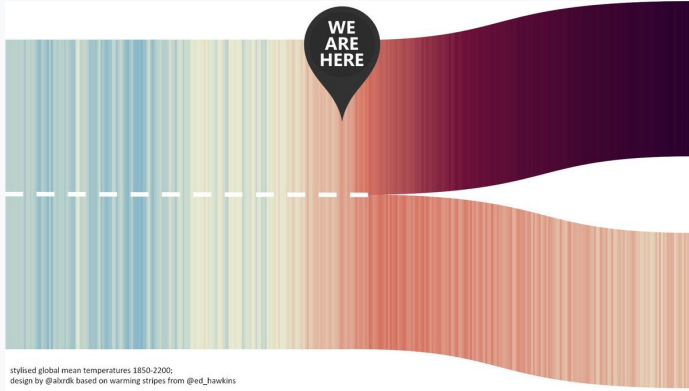


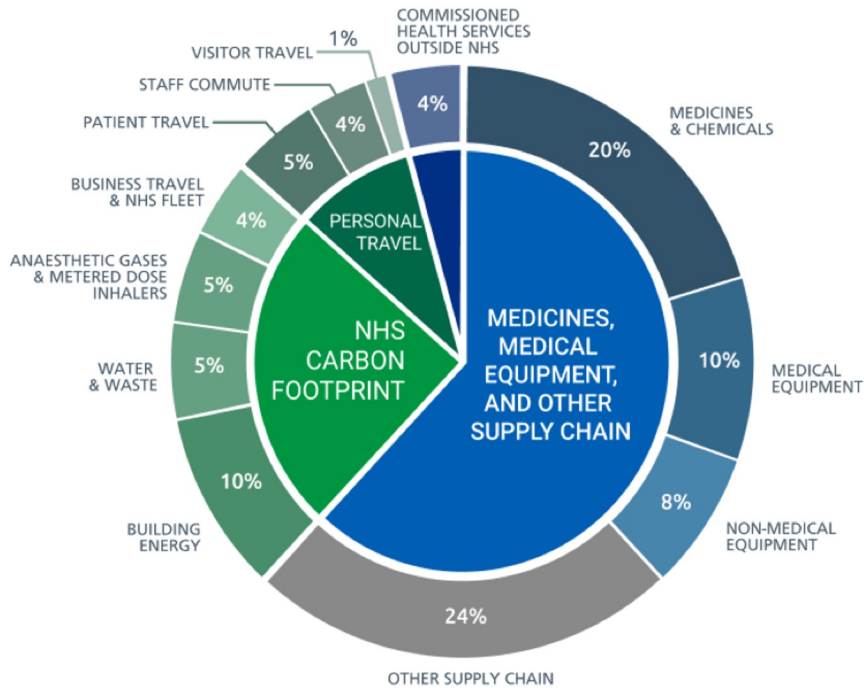
Acute Asthma Emergency Calls











3.5% of NHS carbon footprint comes exclusively from Metered Dose Inhalers (Tennison et al, 2021)

CLINICAL

Kevin E. Liang, MD, CCFP, Jiayun Angela Yao, PhD, Philip Hui, MD, FRCPC, Darryl Quantz, MFPH, MPH, MSc

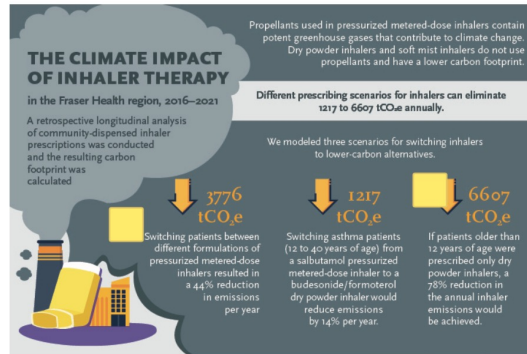
Climate impact of inhaler therapy in the Fraser Health region, 2016–2021

Switching away from pressurized metered-dose inhalers with high carbon footprints, when appropriate, would reduce the health care sector's greenhouse gas emissions.

ABSTRACT

Background: Inhaler therapy is a cornerstone treatment for asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Propellants used in pressurized metered-dose inhalers contain potent greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. Dry powder inhalers and soft mist inhalers do not use propellants and have a lower carbon footprint.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective longitudinal analysis of community-dispensed inhaler prescriptions in the Fraser Health region in British Columbia from 2016 to 2021 and calculated the resulting carbon footprint. We modeled three scenarios for switching inhalers to lower-carbon alternatives.



BCMJ
BC Medical Journal

Why **low-carbon** respiratory care is **high-quality** care



Why **low-carbon** respiratory care is **high-quality** care

Reason #1: Decrease pollution

- Some inhalers contain **powerful pollution** that contribute to global climate change
- Inhalers are a source of pollution we **have direct control** over as clinicians



Ways to provide **low-carbon** respiratory care

01

Develop suitable prescribing practices around all inhalers

02

Encourage pMDI alternatives when appropriate

03

Ensure appropriate pMDI use & disposal when prescribed



Ways to provide **low-carbon** respiratory care

01

Right Diagnosis

02

Right Inhalers

03

Right Use & Right Disposal



Ways to provide **low-carbon** respiratory care

01

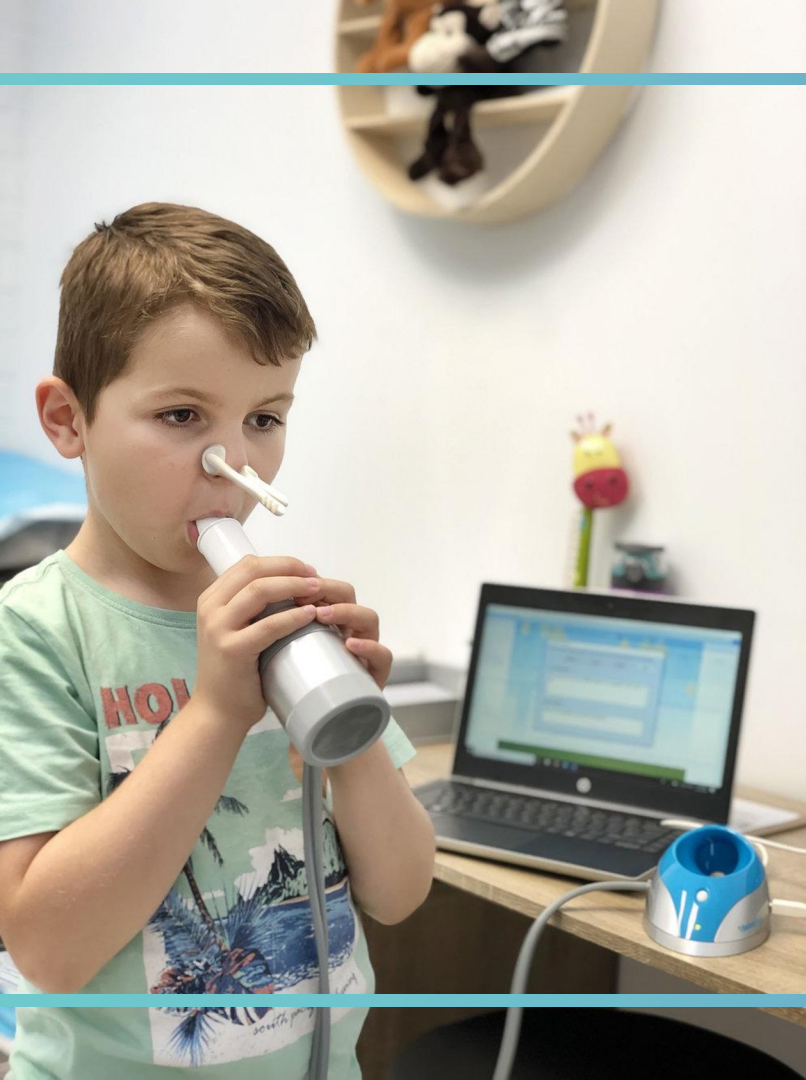
Right Diagnosis

02

Right Inhalers

03

Right Use & Right Disposal



Right Diagnosis: Asthma

- 1/3 patients labelled with asthma do not have asthma on objective testing ^{1,2}
- 80% of those with negative test results were on medication for asthma ¹
- Patients with spirometry-confirmed asthma have better respiratory outcomes²

1. Aaron et.al. JAMA. 2017; 317(3): 269-279. Re-evaluation of Diagnosis in Adults With Physician-Diagnosed Asthma

2. Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) Guidelines 2020, page 26. Available at https://ginasthma.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/GINA-2020-report_20_06_04-1-wms.pdf



Right Diagnosis: COPD

- Up to 44% of patients who received a clinical diagnosis of COPD did not actually have the condition when tested objectively¹
- When COPD is diagnosed without spirometry, providers underestimate the severity of the condition²
- Patients with COPD have both lower hospital admission rates and lower mortality when the diagnosis is confirmed by spirometry, as opposed to clinically^{1,2}

1. Gershon AS, Hwee J, Chapman KR, Aaron SD, O'Donnell DE, Stanbrook MB, et al. Factors associated with undiagnosed and overdiagnosed COPD. *European Respiratory Journal*. 2016;48(2):561-4.
2. Hill K, Goldstein RS, Guyatt GH, Blouin M, Tan WC, Davis LL, et al. Prevalence and underdiagnosis of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease among patients at risk in primary care. *Cmaj*. 2010;182(7):673-8.



Don't initiate medications for **asthma** in patients ≥ 6 years old who have not had confirmation of reversible airflow limitation with spirometry

Don't initiate long-term maintenance inhalers in stable patients with suspected **COPD** if they have not had confirmation of post-bronchodilator airflow obstruction with spirometry

What about patients ≤ 5 years old?

Objective documentation
of signs of airflow
obstruction



What about patients ≤ 5 years old?

Objective documentation
of signs of airflow
obstruction

Absence of clinical factors
suggestive of an alternative
diagnosis



What about patients ≤ 5 years old?

Objective documentation
of signs of airflow
obstruction

Absence of clinical factors
suggestive of an alternative
diagnosis

Reversibility of airflow
obstruction



Inappropriate use of inhalers:

1. Bronchiolitis

- Bronchiolitis is a common viral illness caused by RSV and occurs during the late fall and winter months
- The diagnosis is typically made for a first episode of wheezing in children less than 12-24 months of age in winter months
- **Supportive care is the cornerstone of treatment**



Canadian
Paediatric
Society

“The pathophysiology of bronchiolitis is such that the airways are obstructed rather than constricted. Infants appear to have **inadequate β -agonist lung receptor sites. When the diagnosis of bronchiolitis is clear, **a trial of salbutamol is not recommended.**”**

Other inappropriate uses of inhalers:

2. Viral & Post-Viral cough

Observed typical duration of
cough = **18 days**

VERSUS

Patient expectation for duration
of cough = **5-9 days**

Tools for Practice

Bronchodilators or inhaled corticosteroids for postinfectious cough

Samantha S. Moe PharmD ACPR Emélie Braschi MD PhD CCFP G. Michael Allan MD CCFP FCFP

“most patients (>80%, regardless of treatment) will have cough resolution by day 20”³

Insel K, Lyon C. Q: Are inhaled steroids effective for a postviral cough?. Journal of Family Practice. 2015 Mar 1;64(3):189-90.

Ebell MH, Lundgren J, Youngpairoj S. How long does a cough last? Comparing patients' expectations with data from a systematic review of the literature. Ann Fam Med. 2013 Jan-Feb;11(1):5-13. doi: 10.1370/afm.1430. PMID: 23319500; PMCID: PMC3596033, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/23319500/>


Moe SS, Braschi E, Allan GM. Bronchodilators or inhaled corticosteroids for postinfectious cough. Canadian Family Physician. 2023 Mar 1;69(3):180-.

Why **low-carbon** respiratory care is **high-quality** care

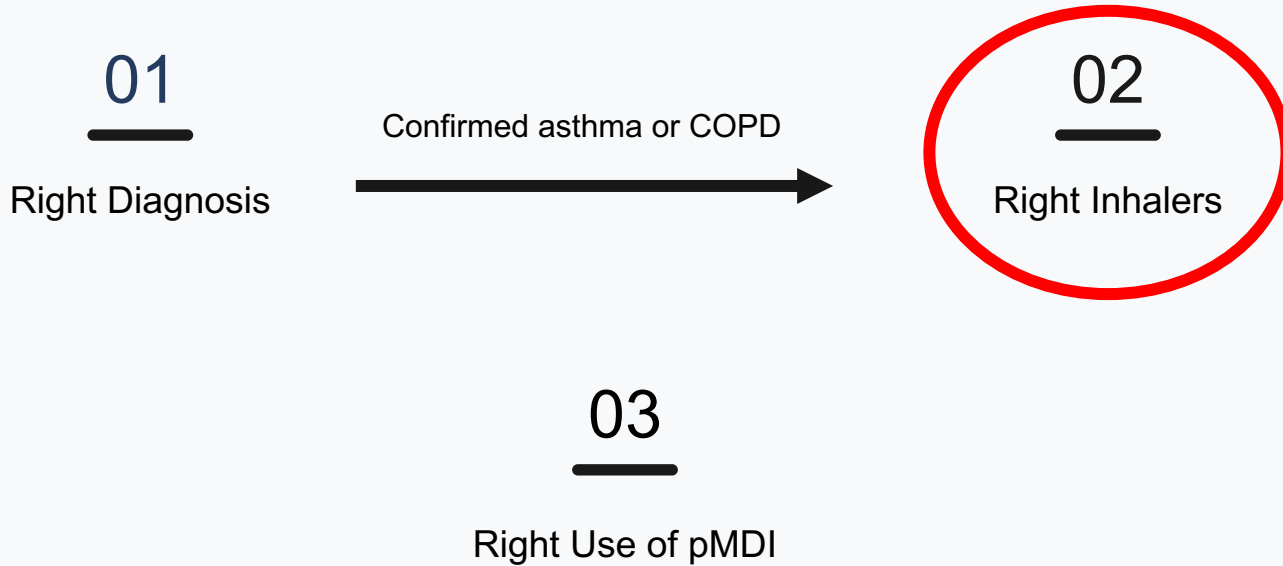


Why **low-carbon** respiratory care is **high-quality** care

Reason #2 Avoid harms from inappropriate inhaler use

- **Mismanagement** of COPD or asthma — unnecessary treatment or undertreatment
 - **Missing or delaying** recognition and treatment of the actual diagnosis
 - Financial **cost** to patient/PharmaCare
 - May affect patient's **quality of life**
 - Medication **side effects** (including tremor, electrolyte disturbance, anticholinergic symptoms)
 - Inhaler/**drug shortage** during respiratory season/wildfire season
- 

Ways to provide **low-carbon** respiratory care



pMDI



DPI

Diskus



Turbuhaler



Ellipta



Breezhaler



Handihaler



Respclick



Twisthaler



Inhub



Genuair

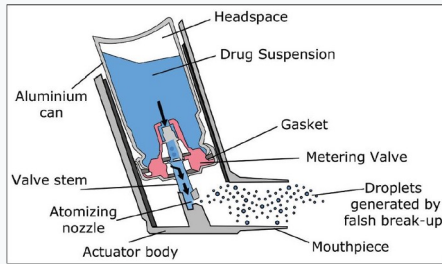


SMI

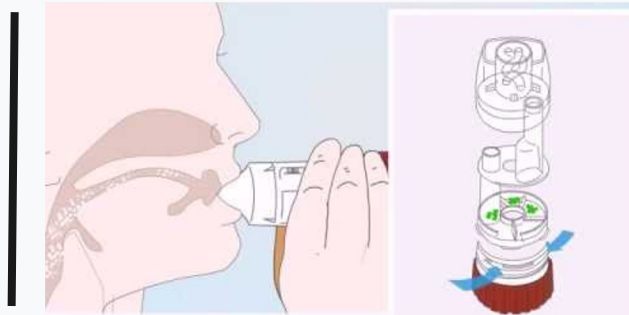


Comparing Inhalers

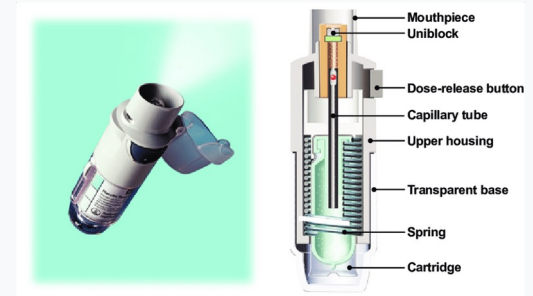
Metered Dose Inhalers (MDIs)



Dry Powder Inhalers (DPIs)



Soft Mist Inhalers (SMIs)



Factors to consider: pollution

Metered Dose Inhalers
(MDIs)

~10-28 kg CO₂e per
inhaler



11.9 litres of
gasoline

Dry Powder Inhalers
(DPIs)

~0.5-1 kg CO₂e per
inhaler

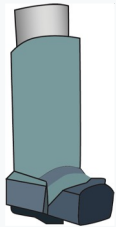
Soft Mist Inhalers
(SMIs)

~0.8 kg CO₂e per
inhaler

Factors to consider: dose counter

Metered Dose Inhalers (MDIs)

Most devices do not have a dose counter



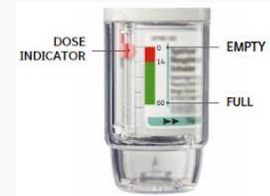
Dry Powder Inhalers (DPIs)

All available devices have a dose counter



Soft Mist Inhalers (SMIs)

All available devices have a dose counter



Factors to consider: technique

Metered Dose Inhalers (MDIs)

- Slow, steady inhalation (4-5 sec)
- Need to sync breathing with release of medication
- Preferred for those with poor inspiratory flow, those with dementia

Dry Powder Inhalers (DPIs)

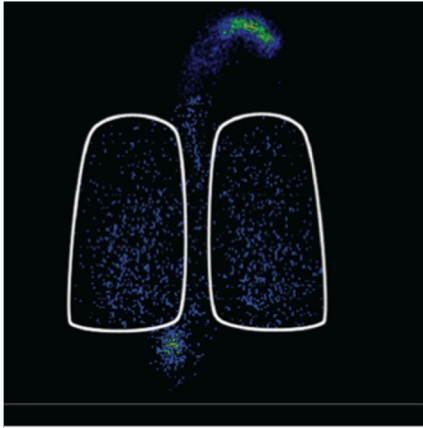
- Quick, deep inhalation (2-3 sec)
- No need to sync breathing
- Generally easier to use¹
- **Preferred for school aged children and above (≥ 6 years)**

Soft Mist Inhalers (SMIs)

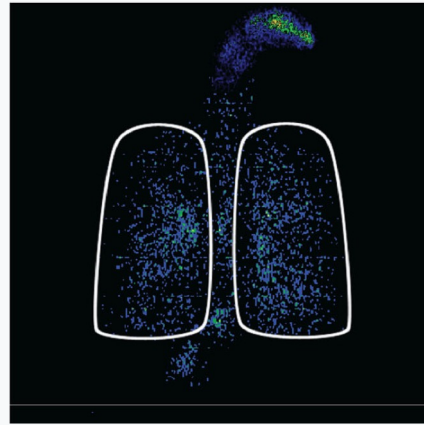
- Slow steady inhalation (4-5 sec)
- Aerosol generated has lower velocity and longer duration than pMDI

Factors to consider: medication deposition

Metered Dose Inhalers (MDIs) —without spacer



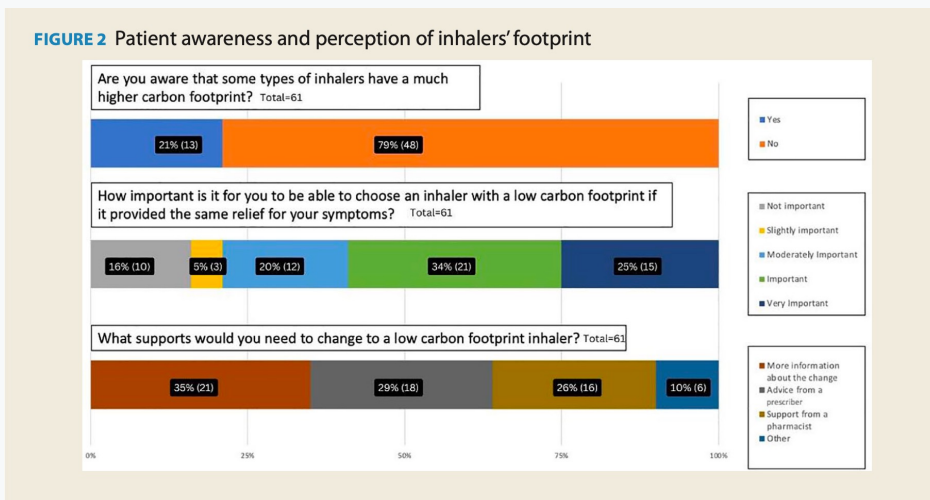
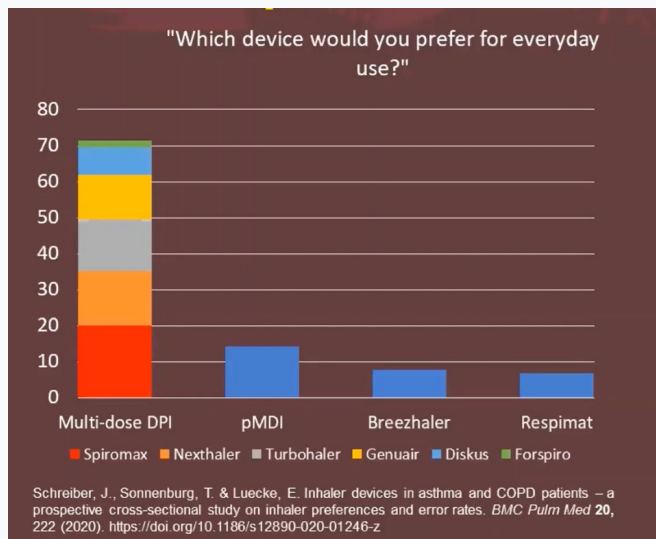
Dry Powder Inhalers (DPIs)



Soft Mist Inhalers (SMIs)



Factors to consider: Patient Preference



Quantz D, Wong GY, Liang K. Patient perspectives on the environmental impact of inhalers: A survey in British Columbia. *Canadian Pharmacists Journal/Revue des Pharmaciens du Canada*. 2023 Oct 11:17151635231202980.

Why **low-carbon** respiratory care is **high-quality** care



Why **low-carbon** respiratory care is **high-quality** care

Reason #3 Clinical benefits of DPIs and SMI

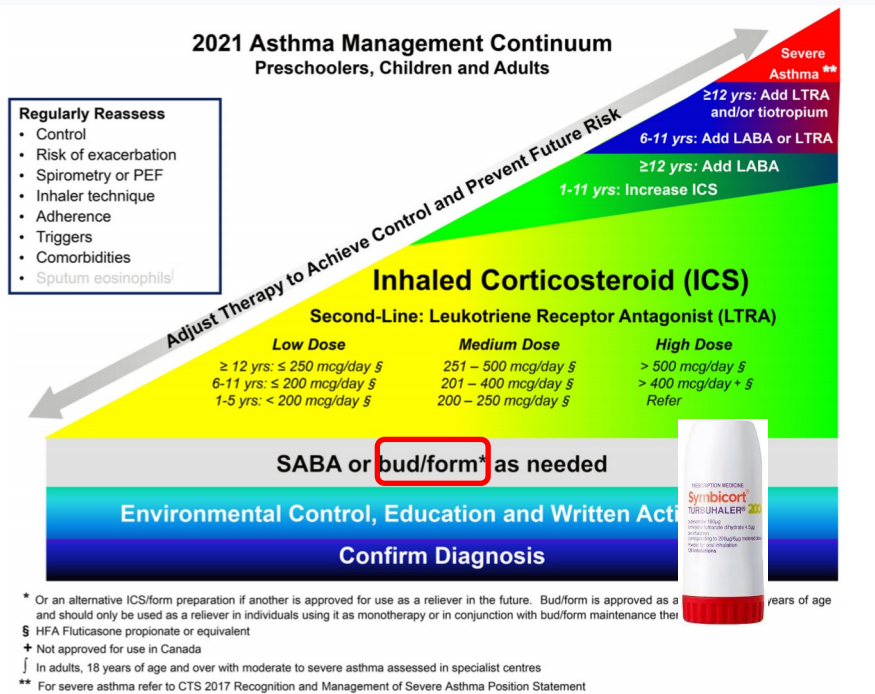
- Presence of a dose counter:
 - preventing the use of an an empty inhaler
 - throwing away doses remaining in inhalers
- No need for a spacer with each use
- Perhaps better deposition of medication depending on technique*
- Patient preference



Asthma and COPD guidelines & **low-carbon** Respiratory Care



Asthma Guidelines



EDITORIAL
GINA 2019

GINA 2019: a fundamental change in asthma management

Treatment of asthma with short-acting bronchodilators alone is no longer recommended for adults and adolescents

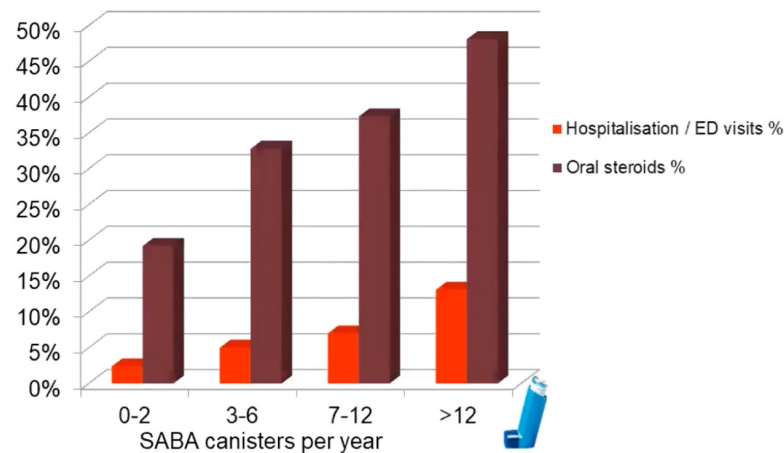
Helen K. Reddel¹, J. Mark FitzGerald², Eric D. Bateman³, Leonard B. Bacharier⁴, Allan Becker⁵, Guy Brusselle⁶, Roland Buhl⁷, Alvaro A. Cruz⁸, Louise Fleming⁹, Hiromasa Inoue¹⁰, Fanny Wai-san Ko¹¹, Jerry A. Krishnan¹², Mark L. Levy¹³, Jiangtao Lin¹⁴, Søren E. Pedersen¹⁵, Aziz Sheikh¹⁶, Arzu Yorgancioglu¹⁷ and Louis-Philippe Boulet¹⁸

Asthma Guidelines — SABA overuse

Table 3. Well-controlled asthma criteria.

Characteristic	Frequency or value
Daytime symptoms	≤2 days/week
Nighttime symptoms	<1 night/week and mild
Physical activity	Normal
Exacerbations	Mild and infrequent*
Absence from work or school due to asthma	None
Need for a reliever (SABA or bud/form) [†]	≤2 doses per week
FEV ₁ or PEF	≥90% of personal best
PEF diurnal variation	<10–15% [#]
Sputum eosinophils	<2–3% [•]

A patient who meets all of the above criteria would be considered to have well-controlled asthma.

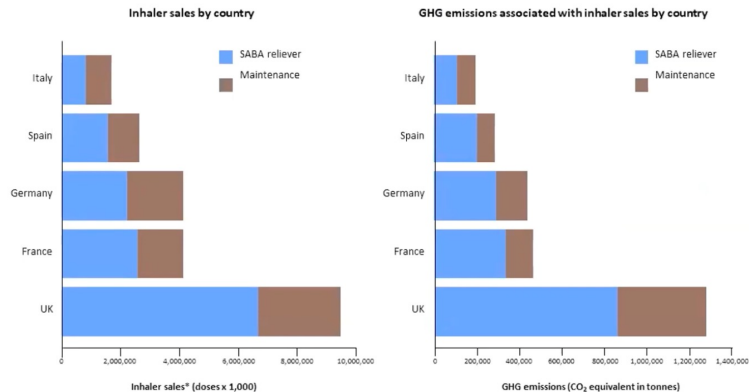


Schatz M. et al. Validation of a beta-agonist long-term asthma control scale derived from computerized pharmacy data. *J Allergy Clin Immunol*. 2006 May;117(5):995-1000. doi: 10.1016/j.jaci.2006.01.053.

Noorduyn SG, Qian C, Johnston KM, Soliman M, Talukdar M, Walker BL, Hernandez P, Penz E. SABA use as an indicator for asthma exacerbation risk: an observational cohort study (SABINA Canada). *ERJ Open Research*. 2022 Jul 1;8(3).

Asthma Guidelines

Short-acting Beta Agonist (SABA) relievers are the most commonly used inhalers and the largest contributors to GHG emissions



SABA relievers represent the majority of inhaler use in the UK and other European countries

SABA relievers drive the majority of GHG emissions from inhaler devices in the UK and other European countries

Over-reliance on reliever therapy reflects poor asthma control and results in large amounts of pollution

*Inhaler sales data from IQVIA; CO₂, carbon dioxide; GHG, greenhouse gas; SABA, short-acting β_2 -agonist; UK, United Kingdom.

Wilkinson A, Menzies-Gow A, Sawyer M, et al. An assessment of short-acting β_2 -agonist (SABA) use and subsequent greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in five European countries and the consequence of their potential overuse for asthma in the UK. *Thorax*. 2021;76:A19.

COPD Guidelines

CANADIAN JOURNAL OF RESPIRATORY, CRITICAL CARE, AND SLEEP MEDICINE
<https://doi.org/10.1080/24745332.2023.2231451>



Taylor & Francis
Taylor & Francis Group

CTS GUIDELINES AND POSITION PAPERS



2023 Canadian Thoracic Society Guideline on Pharmacotherapy in Patients with Stable COPD

Mild	Moderate and Severe	
CAT <10, mMRC 1	CAT ≥10, mMRC ≥2	
FEV ₁ ≥80%	FEV ₁ <80%	
Low Symptom Burden [†]	Low AECOPD Risk ^{††}	High AECOPD Risk ^{††} (increased risk of mortality)
LAMA or LABA	LAMA/LABA* ↓ LAMA/LABA/ICS	LAMA/LABA/ICS** (reduces mortality) ↓ LAMA/LABA/ICS + Prophylactic macrolide/ PDE-4 inhibitor/ mucoytic agents [‡]
SABD prn		

“In individuals with stable COPD, at low risk of exacerbations, with low symptom burden and health status impairment and only mildly impaired lung function (FEV₁ ≥80% predicted), **we recommend starting initial monotherapy with either LAMA or LABA.**”

Bourbeau J, Bhutani M, Hernandez P, Aaron SD, Beaulieu MF, Kermelley SB, D'Urzo A, Lal A, Maltais F, Marciniuk JD, Mulpuru S. 2023 Canadian Thoracic Society Guideline on Pharmacotherapy in Patients With Stable COPD. Chest. 2023 Sep 9.

Short-Acting Bronchodilators

SAMA

(Short-Acting Muscarinic Antagonist)
USE REGULARLY or PRN



Atrovent® MDI
(ipratropium bromide)
20 mcg/dose

Duration: 4-6h
*nebulas also available

Company Key

AZ – AstraZeneca Canada Inc.
BI – Boehringer Ingelheim Canada Ltd.
Covis – Covis Pharma Canada Ltd.
GSK – GlaxoSmithKline Inc.
Novartis – Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.
Valeant – Valeant Canada
Viatrix – Viatrix

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SABA

(Short-Acting Beta2-Agonist)
USE REGULARLY or PRN



Airoirm™ MDI
(salbutamol sulphate)
100 mcg/dose

Duration: 4-6h
Company: Valeant



Bricanyl® Turbuhaler®
(terbutaline sulphate)
0.5 mg/dose

Duration: 4-6h
Company: AZ



Ventolin® Diskus®
(salbutamol sulphate)
200 mcg/dose

Duration: 4-6h
Company: GSK



Ventolin® MDI
(salbutamol sulphate)
100 mcg/dose

Duration: 4-6h
Company: GSK
*nebulas and generic brands available

Long-Acting Bronchodilators

LAMA

(Long-Acting Muscarinic Antagonist)
USE REGULARLY



Incruse™ Ellipta®
(umeclidinium bromide)
62.5 mcg/dose

Duration: 24h
Company: GSK



Seebri® Breezhaler®
(glycopyrronium bromide)
50 mcg/dose

Duration: 24h
Company: Covis



Spiriva® Handihaler®
(tiotropium bromide monohydrate)
18 mcg/dose

Duration: 24h
Company: BI



Spiriva® Respimat®
(tiotropium bromide monohydrate)
2.5 mcg/dose

Duration: 24h
Company: BI



Tudorza® Genuair®
(aclidinium bromide)
400 mcg/dose

Duration: 12h
Company: AZ

LABA

(Long-Acting Beta2-Agonist)
USE REGULARLY



Foradil® Aerolizer®
(formoterol fumarate)
12 mcg/dose

Duration: 12h
Company: Novartis



Serevent® Diskus®
(salmeterol xinafoate)
50 mcg/dose

Duration: 12h
Company: GSK



Striverdi® Respimat®
(olodaterol hydrochloride)
2.5 mcg/dose

Duration: 24h
Company: BI
*Approved by Health Canada but may not be available yet

ICS/LAMA/LABA

USE REGULARLY



Breztri™ Aerosphere®
(budesonide/glycopyrronium/formoterol fumarate)
182/8.2/5.8 mcg/dose

Duration: 12h
Company: AZ



Treligy™ Ellipta®
(fluticasone furoate/umeclidinium bromide/vilanterol trifenate)
100/62.5/25 mcg/dose

Duration: 24h
Company: GSK

Combination Inhalers

ICS/LABA

(Inhaled Corticosteroid/Long-Acting Beta2-Agonist)
USE REGULARLY



Advair® Diskus®
(fluticasone propionate/salmeterol xinafoate)
100/50; 250/50;
500/50 mcg doses

Duration: 12h
Company: GSK



Breo™ Ellipta®
(fluticasone furoate/vilanterol trifenate)
100/25 mcg/dose

Duration: 24h
Company: GSK



Symbicort® Turbuhaler®
(budesonide/formoterol fumarate)
100/6; 200/6; 400/12
FORTE mcg doses

Duration: 12h
Company: AZ



Wixela® Inhub®
(fluticasone propionate/salmeterol xinafoate)
100/50; 250/50;
500/50 mcg doses

Duration: 12h
Company: Viatrix

SAMA and SABA

USE REGULARLY



Combivent® Respimat®
(ipratropium bromide/salbutamol sulphate)
20/100 mcg/dose

Duration: 4-6h
Company: BI



Anoro™ Ellipta®
(umeclidinium bromide/vilanterol trifenate)
62.5/25 mcg/dose

Duration: 24h
Company: GSK



Duaklir® Genuair®
(aclidinium bromide/formoterol fumarate dehydrate)
400/12 mcg/dose

Duration: 12h
Company: AZ



Inspiro™ Respimat®
(tiotropium bromide monohydrate/olodaterol hydrochloride)
2.5/2.5 mcg dose

Duration: 24h
Company: BI



Ultibro® Breezhaler®
(glycopyrronium bromide/indacaterol maleate)
50/110 mcg/dose

Duration: 24h
Company: Covis

Short-Acting Bronchodilators

SAMA

(Short-Acting Muscarinic Antagonist)
USE REGULARLY or PRN



Atrovent® MDI
(pratropium bromide)
20 mcg/dose

Duration: 4-6h
Company: BI
*nebulas also available

SABA

(Short-Acting Beta2-Agonist)
USE REGULARLY or PRN



Airomir™ MDI
(salbutamol sulphate)
100 mcg/dose

Duration: 4-6h
Company: Valeant

Company Key

AZ – AstraZeneca Canada Inc.
BI – Boehringer Ingelheim Canada Ltd.
Covis – Covis Pharma Canada Ltd.
GSK – GlaxoSmithKline Inc.
Novartis – Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.
Valeant – Valeant Canada
Viatrix – Viatrix

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Ventolin® MDI
(salbutamol sulphate)
100 mcg/dose

Duration: 4-6h
Company: GSK
*nebulas and generic brands available

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Long-Acting Bronchodilators

LAMA

(Long-Acting Muscarinic Antagonist)
USE REGULARLY

LABA

(Long-Acting Beta2-Agonist)
USE REGULARLY

ICS/LAMA/LABA USE REGULARLY



Breztri™ Aerosphere®
(budesonide/glycopyrronium/
formoterol fumarate)
182/8.2/5.8 mcg/dose

Duration: 12h
Company: AZ

Combination Inhalers

ICS/LABA

(Inhaled Corticosteroid/Long-Acting Beta2-Agonist)
USE REGULARLY

SAMA and SABA

USE REGULARLY

LAMA and LABA

USE REGULARLY

Short-Acting Bronchodilators

SAMA
(Short-Acting Muscarinic Antagonist)
USE REGULARLY or PRN

Company Key

AZ – AstraZeneca Canada Inc.
BI – Boehringer Ingelheim Canada Ltd.
Covis – Covis Pharma Canada Ltd.
GSK – GlaxoSmithKline Inc.
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SABA
(Short-Acting Beta-2-Agonist)
USE REGULARLY or PRN

Bricanyl® Turbuhaler®
(terbutaline sulphate)
0.5 mg/dose
Duration: 4-6h
Company: AZ

Ventolin® Diskus®
(salbutamol sulphate)
200 mcg/dose
Duration: 4-6h
Company: GSK

Long-Acting Bronchodilators

LAMA
(Long-Acting Muscarinic Antagonist)
USE REGULARLY

Incruse™ Ellipta®
(umeclidinium bromide)
62.5 mcg/dose
Duration: 24h
Company: GSK

Seebri® Breezhaler®
(glycopyrronium bromide)
50 mcg/dose
Duration: 24h
Company: Covis

Spiriva® Handihaler®
(tiotropium bromide monohydrate)
18 mcg/dose
Duration: 24h
Company: BI

Spiriva® Respimat®
(tiotropium bromide monohydrate)
2.5 mcg/dose
Duration: 24h
Company: BI

Tudorza® Genuair®
(aclidinium bromide)
400 mcg/dose
Duration: 12h
Company: AZ

LABA
(Long-Acting Beta-2-Agonist)
USE REGULARLY

Foradil® Aerolizer®
(formoterol fumarate)
12 mcg/dose
Duration: 12h
Company: Novartis

Serevent® Diskus®
(salmeterol xinafoate)
50 mcg/dose
Duration: 12h
Company: GSK

Striverdi® Respimat®
(olodaterol hydrochloride)
2.5 mcg/dose
Duration: 24h
Company: BI
*Approved by Health Canada but may not be available yet

Combination Inhalers

ICS/LABA
(Inhaled Corticosteroid/Long-Acting Beta-2-Agonist)
USE REGULARLY

Advair® Diskus®
(fluticasone propionate/salmeterol xinafoate)
100/50; 250/50;
500/50 mcg doses
Duration: 12h
Company: GSK
*only the Advair® Diskus® has been approved for COPD use

Breo™ Ellipta®
(fluticasone furoate/vilanterol trifenate)
100/25 mcg/dose
Duration: 24h
Company: GSK

Symbicort® Turbuhaler®
(budesonide/formoterol fumarate)
100/6; 200/6; 400/12
FORTE mcg doses
Duration: 12h
Company: AZ

Wixela™ Inhub®
(fluticasone propionate/salmeterol xinafoate)
100/50; 250/50;
500/50 mcg doses
Duration: 12h
Company: Viatrix

ICS/LAMA/LABA USE REGULARLY

Trelegy™ Ellipta®
(fluticasone furoate/umeclidinium bromide/vilanterol trifenate)
100/62.5/25 mcg/dose
Duration: 24h
Company: GSK

SAMA and SABA
USE REGULARLY

Combivent® Respimat®
(ipratropium bromide/salbutamol sulphate)
20/100 mcg/dose
Duration: 4-6h
Company: BI
*nebules also available

LAMA and LABA
USE REGULARLY

Anoro™ Ellipta®
(umeclidinium bromide/vilanterol trifenate)
62.5/25 mcg/dose
Duration: 24h
Company: GSK

Duaklir® Genuair®
(aclidinium bromide/formoterol fumarate dehydrate)
400/12 mcg/dose
Duration: 12h
Company: AZ

Inspiro™ Respimat®
(tiotropium bromide monohydrate/olodaterol hydrochloride)
2.5/2.5 mcg dose
Duration: 24h
Company: BI

Ultibro® Breezhaler®
(glycopyrronium bromide/indacaterol maleate)
50/110 mcg/dose
Duration: 24h
Company: Covis

Why **low-carbon** respiratory care is **high-quality** care



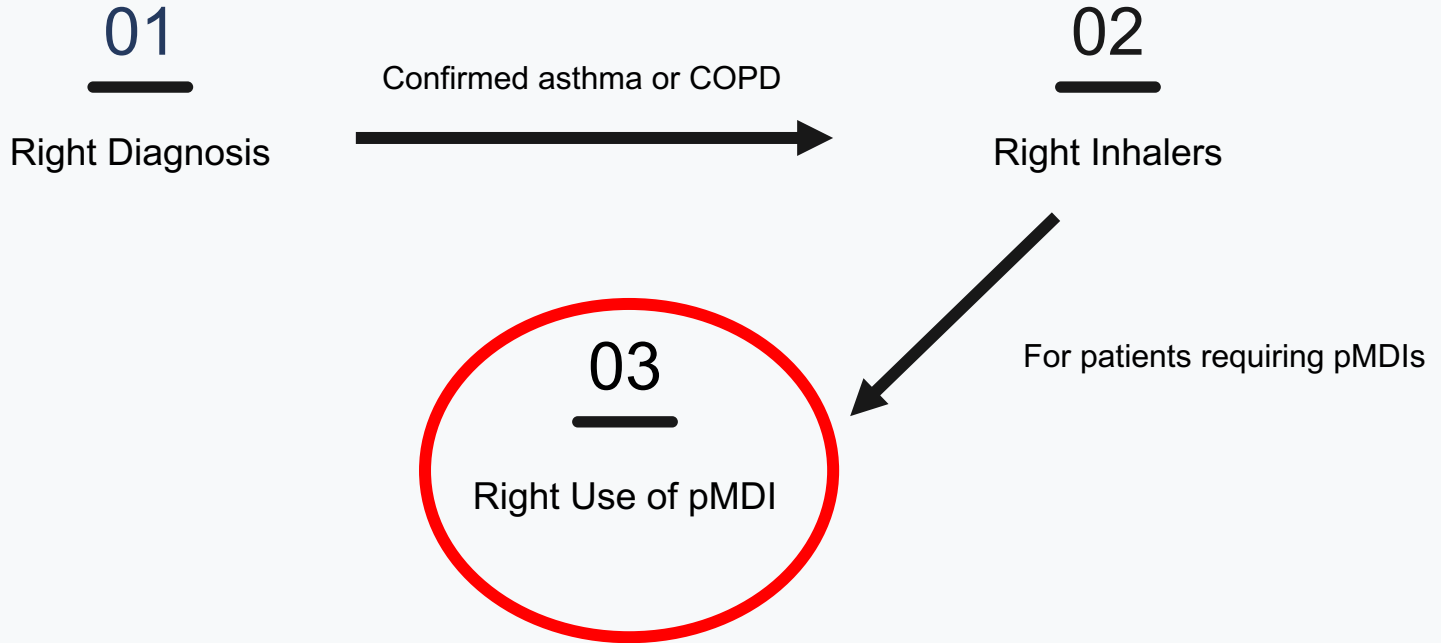
Why **low-carbon** respiratory care is **high-quality** care

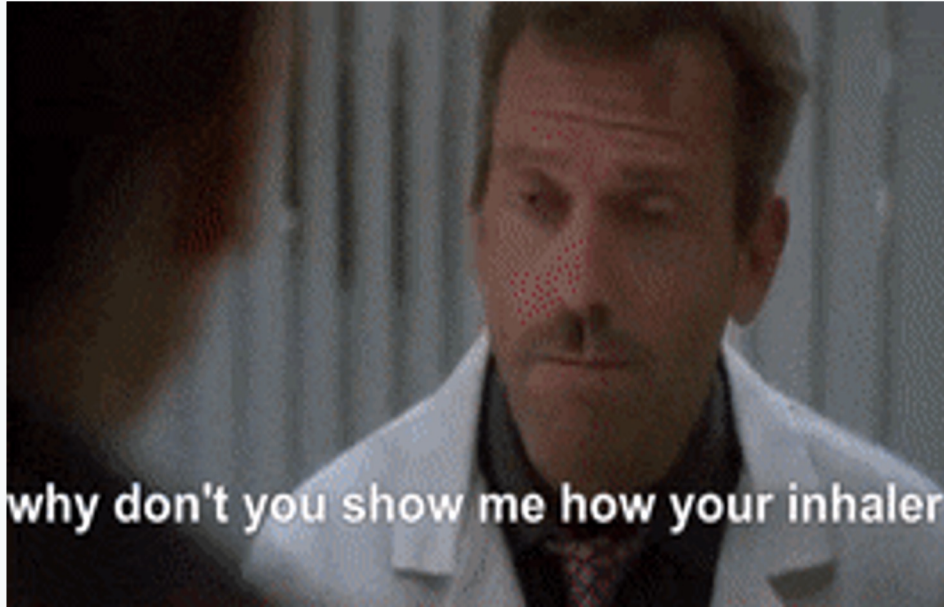
Reason #4: Following asthma & COPD guidelines = low-carbon care

- For patients with asthma: **minimal use of salbutamol/rescue inhalers** means good asthma control + low-carbon care
- For patients with COPD: **switching to maintenance therapy** means good COPD control + low-carbon care



Ways to provide **low-carbon** respiratory care

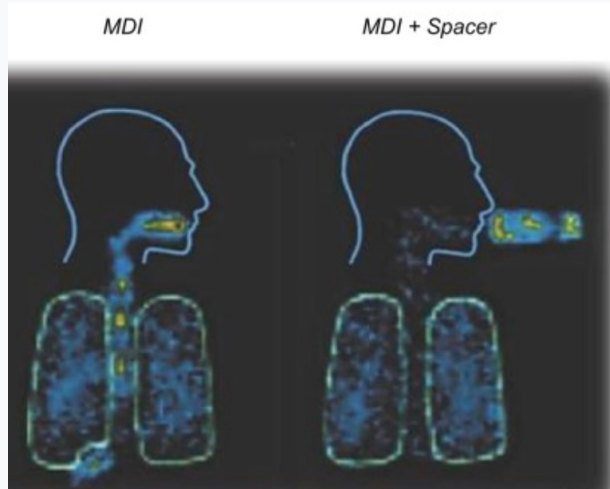




Inhalers are hard to use

- Inhaler technique studies show that 12-71% of the time, they are not used correctly¹
- MDI administration misuse is common in older adults (79% conducting critical errors) and children (97% misuse)¹

pMDI Deposition



Asthma Canada recommends that anyone, of any age, who is using a pMDI should use a spacer.

Compared with a pMDI alone, spacers minimis:

- coordination difficulties
- reduce oropharyngeal deposition

and increase lung deposition

Why **low-carbon** respiratory care is **high-quality** care



Why **low-carbon** respiratory care is **high-quality** care

Reason #5: Improved pMDI technique = less pollution

Good MDI technique is associated with:

- Decreased hospitalization and E.D. visits
- Decreased need for oral steroids and antimicrobials
- Better disease control
- Improved quality of life



Every inhaler needs to be disposed by the pharmacist

7 out of 10



inhalers are thrown away
before being empty.¹



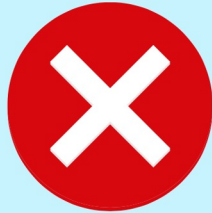
When thrown into the
garbage for landfill,
inhalers release harmful
greenhouse gases into
the environment.²



Ensure that you are
using your inhaler
correctly and dispose
of it when it is empty.



Ask your clinic or
pharmacy to see if
they have a recycling
or disposal program.*



Do NOT throw them
in your household
garbage or recycling.

Why **low-carbon** respiratory care is **high-quality** care

Reason #1: Decrease Pollution



Why **low-carbon** respiratory care is **high-quality** care

Reason #1: Decrease Pollution

Reason #2: Avoid harms from inappropriate inhaler use



Why **low-carbon** respiratory care is **high-quality** care

Reason #1: Decrease Pollution

Reason #2: Avoid harms from inappropriate inhaler use

Reason #3: Clinical benefits of DPIs and SMIs



Why **low-carbon** respiratory care is **high-quality** care

Reason #1: Decrease Pollution

Reason #2: Avoid harms from inappropriate inhaler use

Reason #3: Clinical benefits of DPIs and SMIs

Reason #4: Following asthma & COPD guidelines = low-carbon care



Why **low-carbon** respiratory care is **high-quality** care

Reason #1: Decrease Pollution

Reason #2: Avoid harms from inappropriate inhaler use

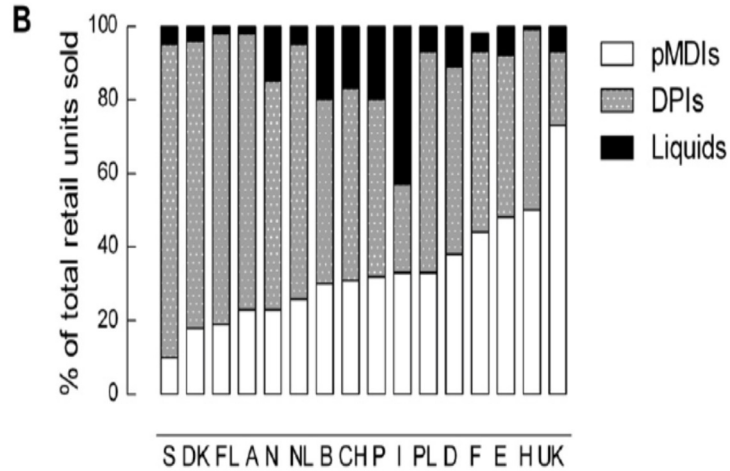
Reason #3: Clinical benefits of DPIs and SMIs

Reason #4: Following asthma & COPD guidelines = low-carbon care

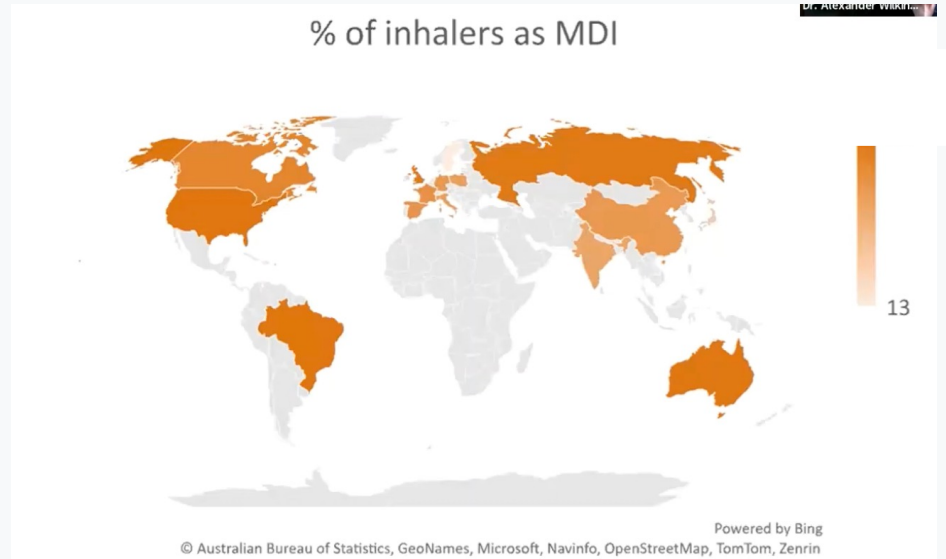
Reason #5: Improved pMDI technique = less pollution + better disease control



What are other countries doing?



C



(Lavorini et al, 2011)

What about the cost of switching?



Example of moderate intensity ICS prescription	Cost of inhaler*	Number of actuations per device	Cost per dose**
Fluticasone MDI 125 mcg 1 inh BID	\$66.63	120	\$0.56/dose
Budesonide DPI 200 mcg 1 inh BID	\$91.17	200	\$0.46/dose
Example of moderate intensity ICS/LABA prescription	Cost of inhaler***	Number of actuations per device	Cost per dose**
Fluticasone/Salmeterol MDI 125/25 mcg 1 inh BID	\$140.82	120	\$1.17/dose
Budesonide/Formoterol DPI 200/6 mcg 1 inh BID	\$115.86	120	\$0.97/dose
Example of SABA prescription	Cost of inhaler*	Number of actuations per device	Cost per dose**
Salbutamol MDI 100 mcg 2 inh QID PRN	\$18.45	200	\$0.19/dose (2 inh)
Terbutaline DPI 0.5 mg 1 inh QID PRN	\$21.38	100	\$0.21/dose

**includes standard pharmacy mark-up and dispensing fee*

***cost retrieved from drugsearch.ca*

****excludes dispensing fee, assumes no SA coverage*

“Regardless of drug class, DPIs are often the less expensive option for patients when considering the cost per dose.”

Stoynova & Culley, 2022

Short-acting beta₂ agonist (SABA)

MDI			DPI		
Product	Cost*	Pharmacare	Product	Cost*	Pharmacare
Teva-Salbutamol (salbutamol)	200 actuations 100 mcg ~\$18	✓	Ventolin® Diskus (salbutamol)	60 blisters 200 mcg ~\$24	✗
Ventolin®, generics (salbutamol)	200 actuations 100 mcg Brand ~\$19 Generic ~\$18	✓	Bricanyl® Turbuhaler (terbutaline)	100 doses 500 mcg ~\$21	✓

Inhaled Corticosteroid (ICS)

MDI			DPI		
Product	Cost*	Pharmacare	Product	Cost*	Pharmacare
Alvesco® (ciclesonide)	120 actuations 100 mcg ~\$67 200 mcg ~\$105	✓	Flovent® Diskus (fluticasone propionate)	60 doses 100 mcg ~\$45 250 mcg ~\$66 500 mcg ~\$97	✓
Qvar® (beclomethasone)	200 actuations 50 mcg ~\$55 100 mcg ~\$96	✓	Arnuity® Ellipta (fluticasone furoate)	30 doses 100 mcg ~\$62 200 mcg ~\$108	✓
Flovent® (fluticasone propionate)	120 actuations 50 mcg ~\$45 125 mcg ~\$67 250 mcg ~\$122	✓	Asmanex® Twisthaler (mometasone)	30 doses (100, 400mcg) or 60 doses(200, 400mcg) 200 mcg ~\$56 400 mcg ~\$96	200mcg ✓ 400mcg ✓
			Pulmicort® Turbuhaler (budesonide)	200 doses 100 mcg ~\$52 200 mcg ~\$91 400 mcg ~\$128	✓

ICS/LABA

MDI			DPI		
Product	Cost*	Pharmacare	Product	Cost*	Pharmacare
Zenhale® (mometasone/ formoterol)	120 actuations 100/5 mcg ~\$106 200/5 mcg ~\$128	Special Authority	Advair® Diskus, generics (fluticasone propionate/salmeterol)	60 blisters 100/50 mcg ~\$110, \$57 250/50 mcg ~\$130, \$65 500/50 mcg ~\$180, \$89	Special Authority
Advair® (fluticasone propionate/ salmeterol)	120 actuations 125/25 mcg ~\$129 250/25 mcg ~\$180	Special Authority	Breo® Ellipta (fluticasone furoate/vilanterol)	30 blisters 100/25 mcg ~\$107 200/25 mcg ~\$160	Special Authority
			Symbicort® Turbuhaler (budesonide/formoterol)	120 doses 100/6 mcg ~\$84 200/6 mcg ~\$106	Special Authority

Special Authority: Diagnosis of Asthma + Inadequate response on optimal dose of inhaled corticosteroid

Case #1: Sammy Salbutamol

A 25-year-old patient with asthma who has a Ventolin and Flovent inhaler

You check his record and see that over the past year, he has received **over 4 Ventolin inhalers**



Poor Asthma Control

On SABA & ICS therapy



Consider switch to ICS-LABA combination:

Budesonide-Formoterol

- Tackles SABA monotherapy
- Dose counter
- Simplifies inhaler



*Special Authority Required

Case #2: "Mild"-Asthma Michael

50-year-old gentleman with life-long history of asthma. He had a spirometry test 5 years ago.

He says his asthma is very well-controlled and only uses one salbutamol inhaler every year.

He takes it when he exercises or during the wildfire seasons



Very Mild Asthma

On Salbutamol PRN



Switch SABA to SABA (+ICS): terbutaline (Bricanyl) + budesonide (Pulmicort)

- Covered by Pharmacare
- Dose Counter
- No spacer needed when exercising
- Regular ICS use reduces exercise-induced asthma



Case #3: Too-Many-Inhalers

Tom

80-year-old patient with documented COPD

He needs his Ventolin and Atrovent inhalers refilled. He uses both inhalers regularly. In his bag of inhalers, he also has:

- Advair pMDI
- Sprivia Respimat
- Incruse Ellipta — a sample he received last year



Mild COPD

On Salbutamol (SABA) PRN

+ Atrovent (SAMA) PRN + Advair (ICS/LABA)

+ Spiriva (LAMA) + Incruse (LAMA)

Switch to Spiriva Respimat (Maintenance) + Bricanyl (Rescue)

- Reduces Pill Burden
- Covered by Pharmacare
- No spacer required
- No special authority required



Mild	Moderate and Severe	
CAT <10, mMRC 1	CAT ≥10, mMRC ≥2	
FEV ₁ ≥80%	FEV ₁ <80%	
Low Symptom Burden [†]	Low AECOPD Risk ^{††}	High AECOPD Risk ^{††} (increased risk of mortality)
LAMA or LABA	LAMA/LABA* ↓ LAMA/LABA/ICS	LAMA/LABA/ICS** (reduces mortality) ↓ LAMA/LABA/ICS + Prophylactic macrolide/ PDE-4 inhibitor/ mucolytic agents [†]
SABD prn		

Select all images with a
green inhaler that is also covered

Click verify once there are none left.



VERIFY

Clinical Tools

www.BCInhalers.ca

BC Inhalers
A guide to green inhalers in British Columbia, Canada

Inhaler Carbon Emissions
 Low Moderate High

Instructions
 1. Select indication:
 Asthma

2. Add criteria:
 Green inhalers only
 PharmCare covered
(Special Authority NOT required)
 Available in hospital

Patient's Age:
 Years Old

3. Click on any inhaler for more detail

Updated: July 2023
[Disclaimer & About Us](#)
[Quick Guide to Inhaler Switches](#)

SABA				
	Bricanyl Turbuhaler terbutaline		Ventolin Diskus salbutamol	
	Teva-Salbutamol MDI salbutamol		Ventolin MDI salbutamol	
ICS				
	Pulmicort Turbuhaler budesonide		Arnuity Ellipta fluticasone furoate	
	Flovent Diskus fluticasone propionate		Aermony Resplick fluticasone propionate	
	Asmanex Twisthaler mometasone furoate		Flovent MDI fluticasone propionate	
	Alvesco MDI ciclesonide		Qvar MDI beclomethasone dipropionate	
ICS/LABA				
	Symbicort Turbuhaler budesonide + formoterol		Breo Ellipta fluticasone furoate + vilanterol	
	Wixela Inhub fluticasone propionate + salmeterol		Advair Diskus fluticasone propionate + salmeterol	
	Atecart Breezhaler indacaterol + mometasone		Advair MDI fluticasone propionate + salmeterol	
	Zenhale MDI mometasone + formoterol fumarate			
ICS/LAMA/LABA				

CASCADES

GREEN INHALERS

BRONCHODILATORS

Short-Acting Beta2-Agonists | Long-Acting Beta2-Agonists | Short-Acting Muscarinic Antagonists

CORTICOSTEROIDS

Lowest Potency | Intermediate Potency | Highest Potency

COMBINATION INHALERS

Corticosteroids + Long-Acting Beta2-Agonists | Corticosteroids + Short-Acting Beta2-Agonists | Corticosteroids + Short-Acting Muscarinic Antagonists | Corticosteroids + Long-Acting Beta2-Agonists + Short-Acting Muscarinic Antagonists

SUSTAINABILITY

PATHWAY
 1 aerosol inhaler = 170 gm CO₂ eq

NEED
 Do you require a confirmed diagnosis of respiratory illness necessitating the use of an inhaler?

TYPE
 Is it appropriate to consider an environmentally preferred inhaler?

TECHNIQUE
 Has the patient received support training on inhaler technique?

DISPOSAL
 Has the patient been made aware of disposal options?

CASCADES
 Change Active Healthcare Solutions
 A Canadian Health Solutions Company

Reach Out for an Inhaler PSP project to provide high quality & green asthma care

kevin.liang@fraserhealth.ca

Aim 1

Improve outcomes for adult asthma patients through identification of SABA over-reliance and appropriate implementation of a MART based treatment strategy.

Objectives



Reduce the proportion of inhaled asthma treatments prescribed that are a SABA inhaler by increasing appropriate use of ICS and reducing over-reliance on SABA



Reduce the number of asthma exacerbations requiring treatment with oral corticosteroids



Reduce asthma related emergency department attendance and hospitalisation

Aim 2

Reduce the environmental impact of adult asthma management through reduction in SABA over-reliance, reducing health care resource utilisation, and use of preventer dry powder inhalers (DPI) where appropriate.

Objectives



Reduce the number of SABA inhalers prescribed



Reduce health care resource utilisation through improved asthma control.



Increase the proportion of preventer inhalers that are DPI where appropriate