**Chiesi Inhaler Recycling Toolkit:**

**Inhaler Recycling Scheme – Invitation Template**

This letter template has been adapted from the *‘*Take AIR’ recycling scheme, and includes areas highlighted in yellow that **must** be edited with details of your local scheme. Please also ensure that all the other details included in the template also align to your local scheme, as well as any local branding.

Once adapted with details of your scheme, it can be shared with other pharmacies you think might be interested in joining your scheme.

**XXXX Inhaler Recycling Scheme – Invitation Letter**

Dear Pharmacist,

We are writing to request your support for the xxxxscheme which is designed to improve the recycling rate of inhalers within the xxxx area.

**This initiative is “free of charge” for your pharmacy to participate in, AND “free of charge to the patient.”**

The transition from the use of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) based inhaler propellants to hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) has reduced the impact of pressurised metred dose inhalers on the ozone layer. Although environmentally less damaging than CFCs, hydrofluoroalkanes, a type of HFC, still have a global warming potential (GWP) much greater than CO2.1

The GWP of hydrofluoroalkane propellants has led to the Environmental Audit Committee to advise that by 2022 at least 50% of prescribed inhalers should be low global warming potential.1,2

Over 60 million inhalers (of all types) are dispensed each year,3 only a very small percentage are recycled. Most inhalers when the patient no longer uses or requires them are disposed of at home through domestic waste bins. This means that millions of pressurised metered dose inhalers end up in landfill each year, where, over time, they will release residual HFCs into the atmosphere.2

**The xxxx recycling scheme is designed to safely and effectively support your patients to recycle their empty, unwanted or out-of-date inhalers through the post.**

**The scheme is suitable for any inhaler type, of any brand.**

We are asking your pharmacy to support:

* The promotion and in-pharmacy awareness of the service to patients for whom you dispense inhalers.
* Identifying the most suitable patients and encourage them to use the postal scheme (further information will be provided at a launch meeting and in further correspondence).
* The handing out of pre-paid envelopes to your patients to post empty, unwanted or out-of-date inhalers for recycling.

**Pharmacy to provide patients with an envelope when dispensing inhalers.**

**Patients post, via “pre-paid envelope”, empty, unwanted or out-of-date**

**inhalers for recycling.**

The scheme will accept **all** inhalers, of any brand, such as:

* Pressurised Metered Dose or ‘puffer’ inhalers
* Dry Powder Inhalers
* Soft mist inhalers

The scheme recycling process:

* Aluminium canisters will be recycled and reused
* Plastic components will be recycled back into the plastic supply chain
* Any remaining propellant gas will be extracted and reused in items such as

fridges and air conditioning units

**Inhaler Recycling –service registration**

To register your participation and receive the “**free service support welcome pack**” please complete the form below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of key pharmacy contact**  |    |
| **E-mail address of key contact**  |    |
| **Third party pharmacy service provider account number**  |     |
| **Pharmacy address**  |   |
| **Pharmacy telephone number**  |    |

Please complete the form and return to us, as soon as possible, by one of the following means:

* **EMAIL:**
* **POST:**

**Name**……………………………………………… **Date**……………………

**Signature**……………………………………………………………………………………………

Please note your details may be shared with the project stakeholders and used to support your implementation of the service. Your details will only be used for the purposes of this service and retained for the duration of this service.

**Details of who is running the scheme can be added here. For example, this is an inhaler recycling scheme organised and funded by XXXX and running throughout XXXX location. The scheme is also supported by XXXX.**

Yours sincerely,

XXXX

## **References**

1. Usmani O, Scullion J., Our Patient or Our Planet – is the sky the limit for inhaler choice. The Lancet Respiratory Medicine 2019; 7(1):11-13
2. House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee UK Progress on Reducing F Gas Emissions, April 2018. Available at: https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmenvaud/469/469.pdf
3. NHS England. Delivering high quality, low carbon respiratory care. Available at: https://www.england.nhs.uk/greenernhs/2023/02/blog-delivering-high-quality-low-carbon-respiratory-care/