**Chiesi Inhaler Recycling Toolkit:**

**Welcome Letter Template for Pharmacies**

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 pharmacy team members who have signed up as an introduction to your scheme, and to clarify the purpose of support materials. It also provides a service overview and background information.

This welcome letter has been drafted to include within the welcome pack sent to pharmacies, which also would include:

* Envelopes (initial supply 2 x10)
* Healthcare professional implementation checklist
* Counter-top display unit
* Scheme information poster
* Scheme information leaflet

**XXXXX Inhaler Recycling Scheme – Welcome Letter**

Dear Pharmacy team,

Thank you for registering to participate in the XXXXXX *recycling* scheme. Please find enclosed your welcome pack, which contains a number of materials to support your patients to recycle their empty, unwanted or out-of-date inhalers.

**Please share this letter within your team as an introduction to the scheme.**

Please find enclosed in this welcome pack:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Support materials**  | **Purpose**  |
| Envelopes  | (initial supply 2 |  x10) | To be provided to patients using inhalers  |
| Envelope checklist  | To remind patients how to use the envelope  |
| HCP Implementation checklist  | To help you get started  |
| Counter-top display unit  | To store envelopes in  |
| Information poster  | To create in-pharmacy awareness of the service  |
| Information leaflet  | To support explanation of the scheme to patients  |
| Additional envelopes can be ordered, via  | XXXXX |   |
|  |

**Service overview:**

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**Patients post, via “pre-paid envelope”, empty, unwanted or out-of-date inhalers for recycling.**

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

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

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

The recycling scheme is designed to improve the recycling rate of inhalers.


# **Service background**

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]](#endnote-2)

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.[[2]](#endnote-3)

Over 60 million inhalers (of all types) are dispensed each year,[[3]](#endnote-4) with 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 participate which includes:**

* **Promoting and creating awareness of the service to patients for whom you dispense inhalers**
* **Identifying the most suitable patients and encouraging them to use the postal scheme**
* **Providing pre-paid envelopes to your patients for them to post their empty, unwanted or out-of-date inhalers for recycling**

If you have any questions about the service, please do not hesitate to contact us via email: XXXX

**Additional envelopes can be ordered free of charge via third party pharmacy service provider – pip code [XXXX]**

We would once again like to thank you for participating in this initiative.

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 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
2. House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee UK Progress on Reducing F Gas Emissions, April 2018. https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmenvaud/469/469.pdf [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
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/ [↑](#endnote-ref-4)