**Chiesi Inhaler Recycling Toolkit** :

**Information Leaflet Template**

This leaflet 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 and local branding. Please also ensure that all the other details included in the template also align to your local scheme.

Once adapted with details of your scheme, it is intended to provide patients with information on your local scheme. Pharmacies should distribute these leaflets to patients who are interested in taking part or are seeking information about the scheme.

**Information Leaflet for Patients**

**What is XXXX scheme?**

The XXXX Inhaler Recycling scheme is an initiative that enables you to help the environment by disposing of and recycling your empty, unwanted or out-of-date inhalers through the post.

Nearly xxxx of the community pharmacies in the xxxx area have signed up to the scheme.

The scheme started in xxxx across community and hospital pharmacies in the xxxx area.

**How does the service work?**

Pharmacists hand out **pre-paid, pre-addressed postage envelopes** to inhaler users when they come in to collect their prescription or distribute them as part of their home delivery service. Each envelope can fit up to four empty, used or out-of-date inhalers, of any brand and any type.

Inhalers are placed into the envelope (first removing any dispensing labels on the inhaler) and sealed. Ideally, three or four inhalers will be returned in each envelope, to increase the environmental benefits of the scheme. Sealed envelopes can be posted in a Royal Mail post box and we will do the rest.

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| **All inhalers – of any brand and type – are accepted by the xxxx Scheme** |

**How does recycling inhalers help the environment?**

Some inhalers contain plastics that are not readily recycled in council recycling schemes. Additionally, local councils are not able to dispose of or recycle the gas contained in ‘puffer’ (also called pressurised metered dose) inhalers.

Disposing of puffer inhalers correctly prevents the release of greenhouse gases from the canister into the atmosphere, which occurs when the inhalers are sent to landfill.1

Through this postal scheme, the aluminium canisters will be recycled and reused. The plastic components will also be recycled and put back into the plastic supply chain. Any remaining propellant gas will be extracted and reused in items such as fridges and air conditioning units. Non-recyclable materials will be converted into energy through a process called *energy-from-waste*.2

**What type of inhalers can be recycled?**

Through xxxx scheme, you can safely and responsibly dispose and recycle **all** inhaler types used for asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), including:

* Pressurised metered dose inhalers (pMDIs) or ‘puffer’ inhalers
* Dry powder inhalers (DPIs)
* Soft mist inhalers

If you are unsure what type of inhaler you have, please ask a member of your pharmacy team.

**References**

1. 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
2. Department for Environment and Food affairs. Energy from Waste: a guide to the debate. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7c77ade5274a559005a113/pb14130-energy-waste-201402.pdf