

Inhalers and the Environment

Metered dose inhalers (MDIs) are responsible for up to 4% of healthcare related greenhouse gas. MDIs are pressurized using hydrofluorocarbons (HFC liquid gas) propellants, which have up to a 3,350 times greater global warming potential than carbon dioxide.

Metered Dose Inhalers (MDIs)	Dry Powder Inhalers (DPIs)	Soft Mist Inhalers (SMIs)
		
Carbon footprint equivalent to driving 170 km by car	Carbon footprint equivalent to driving 6 km by car	Carbon footprint equivalent to driving 7.5 km by car

Certain patients may benefit from switching from an MDI to a DPI or SMI when clinically appropriate. The following outlines screening potentially eligible patients for this intervention.

Patient eligibility criteria:

- Adult (18 years of age or older)
- Using a metered-dose inhaler (MDI)

If a patient meets eligibility criteria, ask if they are interested in discussing inhaler options with the pharmacist. Inhaler assessment would include asking about symptom control, inhaler technique, and inhaler suitability (cost, ease of use, adherence, environmental impact).

If interested, refer to the pharmacist for assessment or to schedule a time.

If patient would like to learn more or has questions, depending on the patient's availability, refer to the poster, provide patient with a handout, or refer to the pharmacist for further discussion.

If not interested, thank the patient for their consideration.

Patients not on a MDI can still be assessed by the pharmacist for alternatives if the patient is interested, such as combining multiple inhalers into one, or ensuring proper inhaler technique and cost-effective options. You can refer to the pharmacist for further discussion.

Questions can be directed to your pharmacist or info@caphe.ca.