

CLIMATE CONSCIOUS INHALER PRACTICES IN INPATIENT CARE

High Vs. Low Volume HFA Inhaler Procurement: A step-by-step guide



This step-by-step guide was developed by the Critical Air Project, led by Dr. Valeria Stoyanova and Dr. Celia Culley at Island Health in Victoria, British Columbia. The steps in this guide are contextualized by the worked examples and recommendations from the Critical Air Project team.

Use the Notes section to brainstorm who to engage, ideas for action, and to check off completed steps!

1 Identify the type of salbutamol inhaler on formulary (low- or high-volume HFA)

- Context - Information was provided by the pharmacy purchasing team and the current contract was with a low-volume HFA salbutamol provider. In BC, inhaler contracts are committed on a provincial level through HealthPRO, a national procurement organization

- Notes -

2 Determine the procurement contract cycle and timeline to assess opportunities

- Context - In BC, the contracts are committed on a provincial level, and the salbutamol contract was up for renewal with HealthPRO in late 2022/early 2023. If the contract was recently secured and will last for multiple years, it may be a low priority, however, the process may start earlier.

- Notes -

3 Calculate the current and potential carbon emissions

- Context - The team identified the current yearly salbutamol usage through contacting HealthPRO. It can also be sourced from the purchasing team. With emissions factors, the impact of changing to a low-volume or high-volume HFA salbutamol MDI can be estimated.

- Notes -

4 Develop the case for change

- Context - A briefing note was prepared detailing the findings, using the appropriate organizational template, which was provided to the team by the Clinical Pharmacy Coordinator at the tertiary center. An executive summary outlining key findings was included.

- Notes -

5 Present the case for change to leadership and determine next steps

- Context - The team met with the Director of Pharmacy and the Pharmacy Supervisor and Buyer to relay findings. The team also met with HealthPRO staff. The team then circulated this document to the Directors of other health authorities and to the provincial Director for Purchasing.

- Notes -

For more resources, view the Climate Conscious Inhaler Practices in Inpatient Care playbook at cascadescanada.ca/resources/inhalers/

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Resource produced in May 2023.



The Critical Air Project



This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada.

Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier du gouvernement du Canada.

