

## KEEPING YOU INFORMED

**Date:** December 2021  
**To:** All Nursing Units at Ridge Meadows Hospital  
**From:** Name Redacted – Pharmacy Coordinator

**Subject:**  
**Removing High-Cost Inhalers from Omnicell Cabinets and Wardstock**

### What's happening?

- High-cost inhalers will be removed from Omnicell cabinets on:  
2N (Peds), 3N, 2W, 3W, ICU, and ER
- These inhalers (see list below) will be sent to wards from pharmacy WITH PATIENT SPECIFIC LABELS

### Why is this happening?

- Many high-cost inhaler are dispensed from Omnicell cabinets WITHOUT patient specific labels
  - The unlabelled inhalers are wasted because staff are unsure to whom they belong to resulting in extra inhalers being removed from the Omnicell.
- How much waste?
  - 1 of every 4 inhalers dispensed is lost or wasted
  - E.g. the waste related to salmeterol-fluticasone (ADVAIR) and ipratropium (ATROVENT) is \$250,000 per year
    - This amount of money would pay for ALL the salbutamol inhalers/nebules used in Fraser Health for 1 full year

### How does this affect you?

- Beginning on January 11, 2022 the inhalers listed below will no longer be available in Omnicell cabinets
  - All of these inhalers will come from pharmacy with patient-specific labels
    - Inhalers:
      - salmeterol-fluticasone powder 50 mcg/250 mcg (ADVAIR EQUIV)
      - tiotropium 2.5 mcg (SPIRIVA RESPIMAT)
      - budesonide 200 mcg (PULMICORT EQUIV)
      - fluticasone 250 mcg (FLOVENT EQUIV)
- Requests for additional inhalers from this list should be made directly to pharmacy via meditec refill function. After hours, these inhalers will be available in the night cupboard.

### Questions?

Contact Name Redacted, Pharmacy Coordinator Ext Redacted.