

Chiesi (UK Ltd) and NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board Executive Summary

This summary has been written by Chiesi Ltd with consultation and approval from the Collaborative Working Project Team, established with full representation of partners.

System Level Inhaler Recycling

Aim: To operationalise an inhaler recycling scheme that involves the collection of unwanted and no longer usable inhalers using 'drop-off' collection sites within specified organisations, such as, but not limited to, acute trusts, primary care and community pharmacies within the East Kent area.

The collection sites will accept all inhaler types and brands.

The intended objectives of this collaborative project are to:

Inhaler return and recycling

- Divert inhalers from domestic waste to reduce the environmental impact of the propellant gas enabling recovery and recycling of device components.
- Create a replicable inhaler recycling model that can be easily adopted by other NHS organisations.
- Ensure that patients have access to an inhaler recycling scheme that is easy to use and convenient to access.

Develop a replicable framework

- Create a feasibility pilot involving collaboration across the healthcare system across East Kent footprint, within identified acute trusts, primary care settings and community pharmacies.
- Develop a logistical infrastructure to demonstrate a framework for others to replicate.
- Provide accessible locations for all inhaler types of any brand to be recovered and components recycled.
- Consolidate learnings from the project to ensure challenges and opportunities are highlighted for further adoption.

Calculate carbon savings

- Calculate the carbon emissions avoided during the timescale of the project, while recovering and recycling other materials from inhalers, where possible.

Intended Benefits

For patients:

- Ability to be involved in a scheme that helps towards inhaler sustainability and reducing carbon emissions.

For NHS:

- Working towards supporting NHS Net Zero targets.
- Improved system working – between acute trusts, primary care and community pharmacies in the East Kent footprint.
- Working with a pharmaceutical partner with detailed knowledge from previous inhaler recycling feasibility pilot.

For the industry partner:

- Supporting NHS to achieve Net Zero targets.
- Reputational gain associated with supporting the Integrated Care Board.
- Better understanding of the challenges faced by the NHS in delivering and implementing projects across the NHS system.

This involves a balance of contributions from both parties with the pooling of skills, experience, and resources.

The project will last 1 year and will commence September 2023