REDUCE Carbon

Randomis**ED** control trial to **U**nderstand whether prescribing **C**hoice for inhal**E**rs is influenced by knowledge of the **CARBON** footprint (**REDUCE Carbon**)

What is the purpose of this research?

Inhalers are some of the most commonly prescribed and expensive medicines in the UK. They are the cornerstone of treatment for many lung conditions, in particular asthma and COPD, and are essential to achieving symptom control and improving quality of life for patients. There are a burgeoning number of inhaler devices available for patient use, and choosing the most appropriate device to meet individual patient needs is an important but often challenging practice. A number of factors are usually considered including ability of the patient to use the device and cost. However it is also becoming increasingly recognised that inhalers have a significant impact on global warming, predominantly driven by the propellant gases used in metered dose inhalers but up until now their environmental impact has not routinely been considered in prescription choice.

We are looking to explore prescribing behaviours surrounding inhaler selection and what information influences this choice. In particular we would like to discover whether knowledge of the carbon footprint of inhalers has any sway on prescribing preference. By better understanding the decision making process, we will be able to produce more comprehensive asthma management guidelines and potentially facilitate a drive to greener inhaler prescribing practices.

What will happen if I take part?

If you agree to take part in this study we will ask you to complete an online questionnaire using the Wessex Asthma Network inhaler guidelines. There are 4 questions and 4 inhaler choice scenarios and should take less than 10 minutes to complete. It is looking at inhaler prescribing choice as well as assessing what factors and information is important when making this choice. We recognise that patient preference is an important factor to consider when choosing an inhaler in order to achieve adherence and effective treatment. However, for the purpose of the clinical scenarios in this study we have assumed the patient can use both a pMDI and DPI equally as well, and therefore inhaler choice is left to the HCPs discretion. It is not a test of clinical practice but to allow us to determine what may influence prescribing choices. We would also like to collect other information about you, such as your place of work, job title and your age range.

I am a healthcare professional but I do not prescribe inhalers for patients. Can I still take part in the study?

Yes. As both prescribing and non-prescribing healthcare professionals can have a major influence on inhaler choices we would encourage non-prescribing healthcare professionals to complete the questionnaire based on their knowledge and experience recognising these are recommendations and not prescriptions.

Do I have to take part?

No. While we are very grateful to everyone who takes part in the study, participating is entirely your choice and you should feel under no pressure to take part. You are free to withdraw from the study at any time before submitting your answers to the questionnaire without giving a reason.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are no direct benefits for you, but the information we gather through this study may help us better understand the decision making processes around inhaler prescribing and, this will allow the production of more comprehensive asthma management guidelines and potentially facilitate a drive to greener inhaler prescribing practices.

What if I change my mind?

You can stop being part of the study before submitting the questionnaire without giving a reason. However once you have submitted the answers to the questionnaire it will not be possible to withdraw your responses from the research database.

We need to manage your records in a specific way for the research to be reliable. This means that we won't be able to let you see or change the data we hold about your responses to the questionnaire once completed.

How will you use the information about me?

You will not be asked to provide any personally identifiable information. We are collecting data about where you work and your job role but it will not be possible to identify who has completed the questionnaire. Once you have completed the study we will keep the answers to the questionnaire for 5 years. Responses from the questionnaire will be entered directly into a database stored on a password protected computer on a secure NHS server held at Queen Alexandra Hospital. Members of the study team will have access to anonymised data in order to analyse the results and will not be able to find out your name or contact details. You will not be able to be identified in any way.

Where can I find out more information about how my information is used?

You can find out more about how we use your information:

- https://www.porthosp.nhs.uk/research/
- www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients or
- by asking your local study team or
- Calling 02392 286000 and asking to speak to Emile Armour, Information Governance Manager

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The results will be published but there will be no way of identifying you or your data from the published results. The published data will also be available on the Wessex Asthma Network Website.

Who is organising the research?

The REDUCE-Carbon study was designed by the Asthma team at Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth in collaboration with colleagues across the Wessex Asthma Network.

Who is funding the research?

The REDUCE-Carbon study is being funded by Respiaction and Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust are sponsoring the study.

Who has reviewed the study?

This study is HRA approved and has been approved by Research and Development departments across the region.

Contact details

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What do I need to do now?

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet and for considering taking part in this study. If you would like to take part please click the start button below.

I confirm that I have read and understood the information above and consent to take part ☐

Start