



Winnipeg Regional
Health Authority
Caring for Health

Office régional de la
santé de Winnipeg
À l'écoute de notre santé

Date: March 25, 2020

To: WRHA Nursing Staff
Shared Health Nursing Staff
EMS Staff
WRHA Pharmacy Staff

From: Krista Allan – WRHA CNO
Brendon Mitchell - WRHA Pharmacy
Director

Subject: National Allocations on Inhalers – Salbutamol, Ipratropium, Fluticasone

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is increased pressure on supply of all inhalers.

Manufacturers have implemented protective allocations to hospital and retail pharmacies to preserve continued supply.

To ensure these products remain available for patients it is imperative that we minimize waste. Unlabeled inhalers which are “left behind” on patient transfer result in significant duplicate dispensing of inhalers.

For staff in all patient care areas:

1. When using an inhaler from ward stock or EMS stock: label inhaler with 2 patient identifiers (name and MRN)
2. Ensure all inhalers follow the patient through the organization on transfer or discharge (e.g. Ambulance to ER, ER to patient ward, home with patient at discharge)

Thank-you for your support of the ongoing WRHA efforts to manage drug supply issues.

If you have any questions, please contact your site pharmacy manager or the Drug Shortages information phone line at: (204) 787-1097, Monday to Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.

*For comprehensive current information on drug shortages, please go to:
WRHA Pharmacy Supply webpage: <https://wrhasp.manitoba-ehealth.ca/clinserv/pharmsupp/default.aspx>*