

DEVELOPING INTRAVENOUS IRON SERVICES IN ALTERNATIVE SETTINGS: A PRACTICAL GUIDE

Jenkins, K

On behalf of CKD Forum and Anaemia Nurse Specialist Association

PROBLEM: As referrals increase to renal services there is a need to be creative in the use of available resources in both primary and secondary care to manage these patients, in particular those who require intravenous iron therapy. Although some units are engaging with primary care to provide such services there is no national guidance available to assist others. The need to produce standardised guidance was identified by the CKD Forum and ANSA, who have collaborated to produce guidelines for healthcare professionals wishing to set up alternative services for the administration of intravenous iron, to improve access to treatment for patients nearer their homes and in a variety of settings.

PURPOSE: To have standardised evidence based guidance which can be used by Specialist Commissioners/local service providers, renal service providers, General practitioners, Community nurses and allied health care professionals to develop intravenous iron services in a non acute hospital setting

DESIGN: The content of the guideline includes: an overview of anaemia in CKD, causes and treatment of iron deficiency anaemia; a treatment algorithm adapted from NICE¹ guidance for the use of intravenous iron; examples of models of care /service development; competencies for nurses based on the knowledge and skills framework; links to online resources for further education and support. The guide will be downloadable from the BRS and ANSA websites.

FINDINGS: This guide gives a comprehensive overview of the rationale, process, resources, education and training needs required to develop an enhanced intravenous iron service which can be responsive to local needs.

CONCLUSION: A more strategic, long-term, community focused approach to commissioning and delivery of specialist services such as administration of intravenous iron is required to meet the changing needs of the population.

RELEVANCE: The Dept of Health (2007) document² 'Implementing care closer to home: convenient quality care for patients' describes how specialist services can be transferred to a community setting with appropriate training, skills and competencies. The administration of intravenous iron is such a service and the guidance that has been produced by the CKD Forum and ANSA supports this.

References

1. National Collaborating Centre for Chronic Conditions. Anaemia Management in chronic kidney disease: National clinical guideline for management of adults and children. Royal College of Physicians 2006
2. Implementing care closer to home: Convenient quality care for patients

(http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Primarycare/Practitionerswithspecialinterests/DH_074419),