

Medicines Regulation and Quality Fact Sheet

New version of the total dose slow intravenous iron polymaltose infusion for the management of iron deficiency anaemia guideline

Issue 4, September 2013

Purpose

To inform clinicians of changes made to the *Total dose slow intravenous iron polymaltose infusion for the management of iron deficiency anaemia* guideline (the Guideline).

Background

The Guideline was endorsed by the Safe and Quality Use of Medicines Advisory Group and distributed statewide in August 2012. Since then, clinicians have reported ambiguity with recommendations in the 'prescribing' and 'administration' sections of the Guideline.

Summary of changes

Prescribing

The example of a slow intravenous iron polymaltose infusion order for a patient weighing 70 kg with measured (actual) haemoglobin of 75 g/L (who would require 1750 mg of elemental iron) has been amended so that it specifies the form of iron used:

1750 mg of elemental iron (**as iron polymaltose**) in 500 mL of sodium chloride 0.9%.

Administration

Administration of the first 50 mg of the infusion has been changed from 'over 75 minutes' to 'over at least 60 minutes'. This change improves convenience, is consistent with current practice and has been safely performed at numerous facilities in Queensland.

The first 50 mg of the infusion should be administered over **at least 60 minutes** up to a maximum rate of 40 mL/hr. Capping at a maximum of 50 mg in the first hour replaces the test dose procedure described in the Product Information.

Rapid intravenous iron polymaltose infusions

Some Hospital and Health Services have guidelines which may support a more rapid intravenous iron polymaltose infusion. These rapid infusions are beyond the scope of this Guideline.

Availability

Version 2 of the Guideline is now available electronically. It can be accessed via the following link:
<http://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/hssa/medicines/docs/guidelines/iv-iron-poly-guide.pdf>

For more information please contact:

Medicines Regulation and Quality

Phone: 07 3328 9817

Fax: 07 3328 9821

Email: medicationsafety@health.qld.gov.au