

Intravenous Iron Infusion Policy

Purpose

To standardise intravenous iron infusion prescribing, administration and patient education to ensure safe use of iron infusions.

Policy

All iron polymaltose infusions will be prescribed on one of the approved prescription forms.

All ferric carboxymaltose (iron) infusions will be prescribed in MedChart where it is available. In non-MedChart areas ferric carboxymaltose will be prescribed on one of the approved prescription forms.

Iron infusions must be administered in an environment where appropriate monitoring can occur.

Applicability

Prescribers, Medical practitioners, Pharmacists, Registered Nurses (RN) and Midwives (RM) with Level 1 endorsement, Students of midwifery and nursing under the direct direction of the RN/RM

Principles

Criteria for adult use at CDHB are outlined in the Hospital Health Pathway titled [IV Iron Infusions](#), including medicine product selection.

Criteria for paediatric use at CDHB are outline in the [Child Health Guidelines](#).

Contraindication, precautions, adverse reactions and monitoring of infusions are also outlined in either the Hospital Health Pathway or Child Health Guidelines, respectively.

The listed prescription forms (see controlled documents) will be used to prescribe intravenous iron infusions when either MedChart is not available, or not appropriate (all iron polymaltose infusions). These controlled documents will include the prescription, administration and pertinent infusion related information.

Roles and Responsibilities

Medical practitioners/Prescribers: to prescribe as directed by the policy (in MedChart or on an appropriate controlled prescription form); to follow the Hospital Health Pathway or Child Health guidelines; to participate in patient education; to report adverse reactions; and to participate in intravenous iron use audit.

Pharmacist/pharmacy staff: to facilitate prescribing in the appropriate environment (electronic or paper); to facilitate use of controlled prescription forms where relevant; to facilitate prescribing that aligns with IV iron infusion guidance; to participate in patient education; to report adverse reactions; and to participate in intravenous iron use audit.

Nursing/Midwifery staff: to participate in patient education; to perform double, independent checking of patient identification and medication administration as per hospital policy; to monitor iron infusions as outlined by guidance and controlled prescription forms; to report adverse reactions; and to participate in intravenous iron use audit.

Policy measurement

Iron Infusions are used in many clinical areas. Each service / department is responsible for developing a plan to review the prescribing by their area to ensure intravenous iron infusion prescribing, administration and patient education is safe and uses the forms outlined in this policy where relevant.

- The method of policy measurement should be appropriate to the service/usage.
- The frequency is at least once in 3 years, for high use areas.
- The responsibility is shared by the Clinical Director and Nurse Manager.
- Audit report circulation includes the Medicines and Therapeutics Committee.

Associated material

Controlled documents

Intravenous Iron Paper Prescription forms

- Iron polymaltose
 1. **Adult** Calculated Dose Iron Polymaltose Prescription [C260152](#) (Ref: 239042)
 2. **Adult** Standard Rapid Iron Polymaltose Prescription [C260153](#) (Ref: 239043)
 3. **Paediatric (≤ 15.9 kg)** IV Iron Polymaltose Infusion [C260079](#) (Ref: 2600)
 4. **Paediatric (≥ 16 kg)** IV Iron Polymaltose Infusion [C260078](#) (Ref: 2598)
- Ferric carboxymaltose
 1. **Adult** IV Iron Ferinject Prescription [C260151](#) (Ref: 239041)
 2. **Obstetric** Intravenous Iron Infusion [C260133](#) (Ref: 233597)
 3. **Paediatric** Ferric Carboxymaltose Infusion [C260134](#) (Ref: 234431)

Supporting documents

- Hospital HealthPathway: [IV Iron Infusion](#)
- [Child Health Guidelines](#).
- Pink Book: [Prescribing Instructions for Medicines](#)

References

- Parenteral iron. New Zealand National Formulary. Available [https://www.nzf.org.nz/nzf_4931?searchterm=Parenteral iron](https://www.nzf.org.nz/nzf_4931?searchterm=Parenteral%20iron)
- Iron polymaltose (Ferrosig) New Zealand Data Sheet. Available <https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/profs/datasheet/f/ferrosiginj.pdf>
- Ferric carboxymaltose (Ferinject) New Zealand Data Sheet. Available <https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/profs/datasheet/f/ferinjectinj.pdf>