**Title**

Intravenous ferric carboxymaltose in general practice: what we know and don’t know

**Author and affiliations**

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**Background**

The use of intravenous ferric carboxymaltose (IV FCM) for iron deficiency (ID) and anaemia is growing in general practice. There are quality and safety factors to consider to ensure its use is appropriate and that the anticipated patient outcomes are achieved.

**Aims**

To present the results of a quality assurance clinical audit of IV FCM and education program in a general practice and highlight clinically relevant precautions and potential adverse effects and their management.

**Method**

Retrospective clinical audit of IV FCM cases between June 2014 – June 2017, followed by practice wide quality improvement activities, education and guideline implementation, with a follow-up prospective clinical audit from March 2018.

**Results**

The retrospective audit included 116 cases of IV FCM. Whilst the majority accorded with approved guidelines, a number of areas for improvement were highlighted. These included inconsistent recognition of potential precautions (e.g. severe asthma), inadequate documentation of ideal body weight and dose calculation, administration and monitoring details, and under-recognition of potential adverse effects (e.g. hypophosphatemia). The quality improvement and education phase addressed these issues (including consultation with respiratory and immunology experts), provided solutions and facilitated implementation of practice guidelines. The prospective audit results will be presented at GP18.

**Conclusion**

The use of IV FCM requires careful consideration of patient selection, administration and patient monitoring. Awareness of precautions and potential adverse effects is required to ensure patient safety. The clinical audit, education and practice guideline implementation regarding IV FCM achieved quality practice improvement.

**References** (If applicable)