

# Introduction of the procedure of Iron infusions in an Aboriginal Health Service



Bega  
Garnbirringu  
HEALTH SERVICE

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## Introduction

Bega Garnbirringu Health Service is an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation that provides culturally appropriate, holistic health care service offering clinical services, health promotion and health education for the people of the Goldfields region.

The procedure of Iron Infusion is a therapeutic option for patients with iron deficiency.

This procedure was previously not available at this clinic.

## Objectives

The objectives of this audit is to look at certain parameters of the procedure of iron infusions introduced in this clinic 6 months previously.

## Methods

- An initial clinic meeting which looked at procedure to introduce this service.
- From this meeting the following tasks were undertaken:
- Development of protocols for the safe prescribing and administration of Ferric Carboxymaltose
  - An Information leaflet for patients to examine before the procedure is undertaken
  - Appropriate Consent form for patients
- Subsequent clinic meeting looked at
- allocation of time required for patients to undergo this procedure, and how bookings could be organised for this procedure
  - the teaching and supervision of medical practitioners who were not familiar with this procedure
- After introducing the clinical service information was sought from General Practitioners about
- the clinical reason for determining the suitability for Iron infusion
  - logistical issues with administering this procedure, and any side-effects
  - suggestions for follow-up of these patients

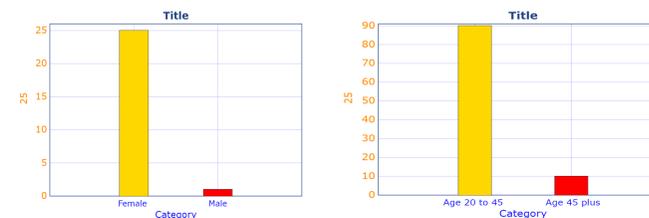
## Results

26 patients underwent the procedure of Iron infusion

25 patients were female, 1 male patient

90 percent between ages 20 year to 45 years, 10 per cent above 45 years

80 per cent female patient antenatal care



In a review of clinical reasons for undertaking this procedure (in order of frequency):

- Time restriction in antenatal patients with significant anaemia
- Difficulty in tolerating oral iron therapy
- Inadequate response to oral iron therapy

The average time taken for the procedure in the clinic setting – 60 minutes

There were no reported side-effects or complications from this procedure

Follow-up: 80 per cent of patients had clinic follow-up with improvement in haemoglobin and ferritin

80 per cent of patients had symptomatic improvement after infusion



## Lessons Learned

- With adequate preparation of protocols, education to colleagues, information leaflets and consent forms the procedure of iron infusion can be provided to clients in this clinical practice.
- Some initial hesitancy about introducing this procedure in the practice was reduced with adequate education and training of colleagues
- Planning for adequate time period for this procedure was appropriate (60 minutes)
- Patients were accepting of the possible side-effects after appropriate counselling and information about this procedure

## Impact/What's next?

The impact of the introduction of the procedure of Iron infusion has been beneficial to patients as:

- the service was previously not available
- follow up of patients after the procedure has shown symptomatic improvement

What's next?

A similar audit will be undertaken in 6 months to see if there are any clinical aspects which may be improved upon.

## Acknowledgements

I wish to acknowledge the staff and health professional colleagues at Bega Garnbirringu Health Service for assistance in collecting the data