

The background of the top section is a close-up, artistic rendering of numerous red blood cells. The cells are shown in various orientations, some in sharp focus and others blurred, creating a sense of depth and movement. The color is a vibrant, slightly dark red.

# Perioperative Anaemia Programme Newsletter

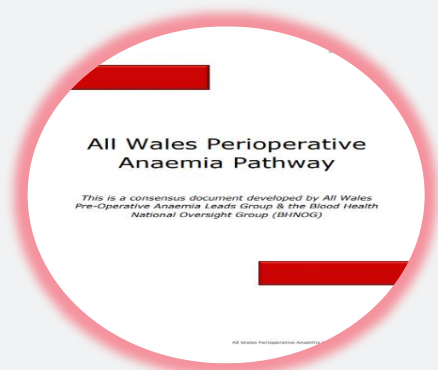
July 2023

## Health Boards Across Wales Deliver Change to Improve Anaemia Management Services

Welsh health boards are delivering value to patients in terms of outcomes and experience through driving forward improvements in anaemia management services. With all showing a commitment to standardising practice and continuing to improve their services to ensure equitable care for patients across Wales.

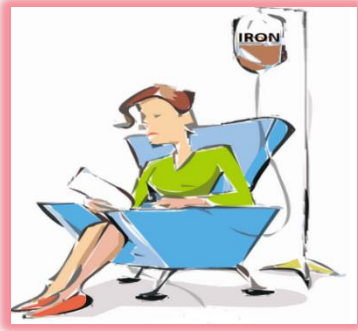
**During establishment of this project, we have witnessed some excellent examples of optimising preoperative anaemia management in all Health Boards that are opportunities for shared learning.**

Swansea Bay UHB cardiothoracics have shown to be proactive in implementing and promoting the national anaemia pathway within its speciality and has shown enthusiasm to support change by promoting the pathway across the Health Board.



To view the pathway & more information about anaemia management in Wales please click [here](#).





Aneurin Bevan UHB has set up a newly formed IV iron clinic to support the care of both medical and surgical patients. This outpatient service was established to deliver the increasing need for IV iron administration. It is a nurse led service that supports all specialities within its Health Board and provides effective and timely IV iron

administration when required. Aneurin Bevan UHB are also exploring implementation of a Patient Group Direction to support staff in providing early treatment with oral iron.

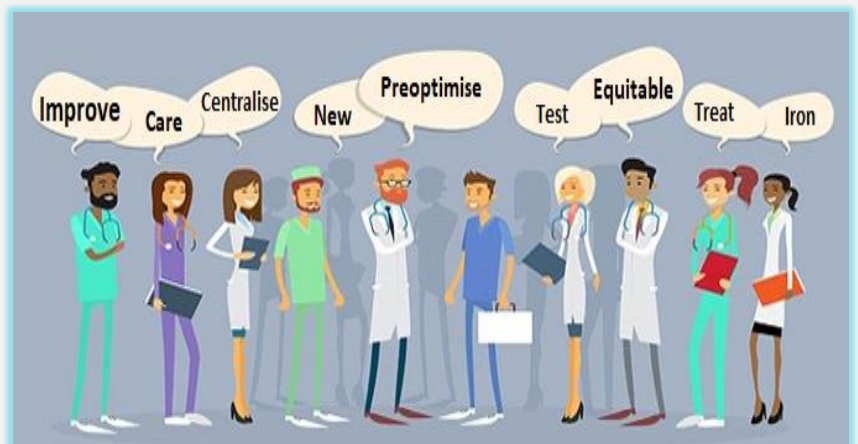
Patient group directions allow healthcare professionals to supply and administer specified medicines to pre-defined groups of patients, without a prescription. This guideline aims to ensure that patient group directions are used in line with legislation, so that patients have safe and speedy access to the medicines they need.

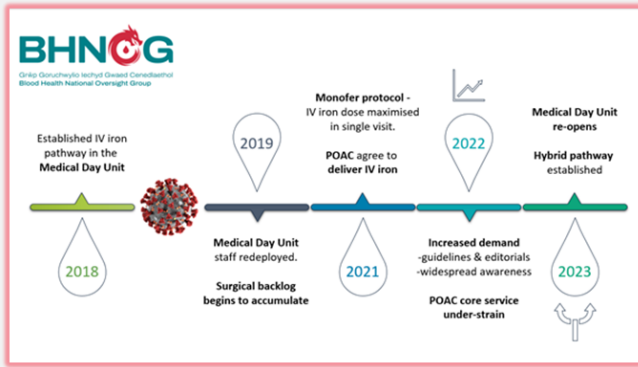
National Institute for Healthcare and Care Excellence (2023). <https://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/MPG2><https://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/MPG2>



Betsi Cadwaladr UHB are currently utilising independent pharmacist and nurse prescribers to support iron prescriptions within their hospitals. There is a multi-disciplinary approach to expand the skillset of non-medical staff to lessen the reliance on the support from consultant anaesthetists, with the aim to provide an effective patient centred service for iron delivery.

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB) is developing a nurse led IV iron clinic to support a centralised preoperative service. There are plans to centralise IV iron delivery services with prescribing support from both nurse and pharmacist independent prescribers. There are plans to improve preoperative nursing skillsets through training in cannulation and IV iron administration, with the goal to reduce the reliance on consultant anaesthetist support.





Cwm Taf UHB have restarted and expanded their preoperative anaemia pathway after the impacts of COVID on its service. The Princess of Wales hospital has developed a specialist nurse led fast track patient assessment service that enables patients to be assessed and treated for anaemia at the earliest opportunity. The issue of the All Wales

Pathway has added weight behind the clinical service and a more effective procedures have now been developed to support anaemia management within its hospitals.

Hywel Dda UHB has shown excellent collaborative working between IT and pathology specialities in supporting improvement through implementing the all Wales Anaemia Test Set within its hospitals.



Anaemia assessment often requires patients to re-attend clinics for further blood tests when anaemia is highlighted. The implementation of the All-Wales pre-operative anaemia screen would support the

avoidance requirement as automatic reflex testing is performed if anomalies in blood tests are highlighted, helping to reducing the burden on the preoperative assessment service from avoidable additional patient clinic visits.

Even though many hospital services are constrained, dynamic health care professionals are driving forward innovative improvements in anaemia management services. There is a real passion to deliver change and we have witnessed an incredible enthusiasm from staff to improve the care that is provided for their patients.

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This newsletter has been distributed on behalf of the Perioperative Anaemia Team.

Please feel free to forward to colleagues or other interested parties.

For further information or updates please contact the Blood Health Team: [WBS.bloodhealthteam@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:WBS.bloodhealthteam@wales.nhs.uk)

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