

Improving the IV Iron pathway for Pre-Operative Patients referred from other Health Boards, for Thoracic Surgery at Morriston Hospital in Swansea Bay University Health Board

Introduction

The responsibility to improve the service and patient experience is vital for the Thoracic Nurse specialists (TNS). A key Pre-Assessment role is to take bloods, interpret results and organise relevant treatment. One responsibility is to refer patients for intravenous (IV) iron therapy if their iron levels are low for pre-operative optimisation.

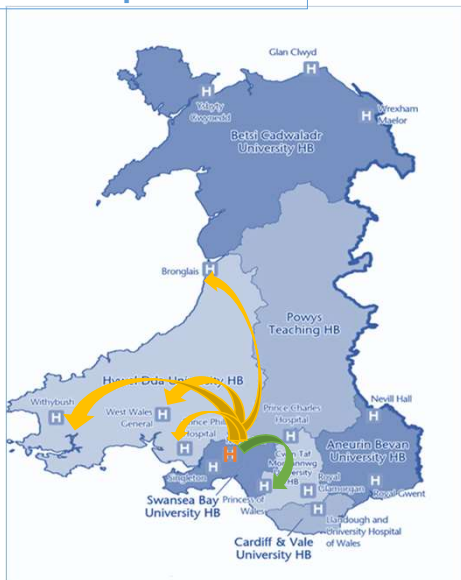
At Morriston hospital we receive referrals from Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB), Hywel Dda University Health Board (H DUHB) and Princess of Wales in Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board (CTMUHB).

Wherever patients live, they travel to SBUHB to receive their IV iron therapy.

Our Aim

To provide IV iron therapy to Thoracic patients closer to their homes within their local HB with supervision from SBUHB using a Hub and spoke model.

Our Hub and spoke model



H = Morriston Hospital, SBUHB, Swansea

Method

We linked up with lead Lung Cancer Nurse specialist in Hywel Dda and after discussion, established that IV iron therapy could be given at each of their hospital sites.

Within HDUHB all four sites Bronglais, Glangwili, Withybush and Prince Philip were emailed. We received only one confirmation reply from Bronglais. We then telephoned other three sites to verify if we could refer patients. All agreed and contact details plus referral forms were provided.

We telephoned Princess of Wales Hospital in CTMUHB and they confirmed they were also able to take referrals from us.

Results

Prospective study from February to December 2023. In pre assessment clinic the TNS saw 192 patients from three HB's, with 44 patients (23%) needing IV iron therapy.



Of the 44 patients referred, 38 patients (86%) successfully received IV iron therapy and 6 patients (14%) did not.

Health Board	Referrals sent	Therapy completed	Therapy not received
SBUHB	29	29	0
HDUHB	10	5	5
CTMUHB	5	4	1
Total	44	38	6

Reasons IV iron therapy not received; HDUHB

- 1 Patient did not attend appointment
- 1 Proceeded straight to surgery
- 1 Hospital admission
- 2 Referrals not acted upon by Hospital

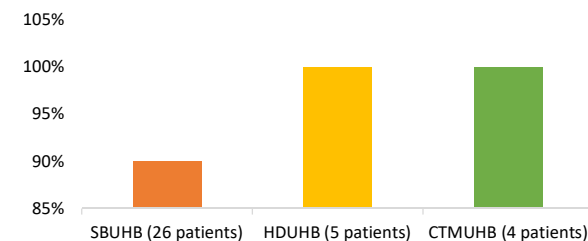
CTMUHB

- 1 Referral rejected due to results outside of parameters

Challenges	Outcome
Unsure where to refer patients for IV iron therapy	Linked with local CNS & information shared
IV iron therapy prescription needed with referral	TNS's are in a different HB from referrals, so agreed doctors to prescribe locally
Minimal Medical cover in Withybush	Referrals currently on hold. Further discussions ongoing
Inappropriate referrals	Linked with BHN0G & All Wales Perioperative Anaemia Pathway provided
On audit, we found not all patients received their IV iron therapy	Confirmation email reply requested from sites

Outcome

100% of patients that completed IV iron therapy in HDUHB & CTMUHB successfully went on to have Thoracic surgery.



Reasons patients did not undergo surgery; SBUHB

- 1 still awaiting surgery
- 1 declined surgery
- 1 disease progression.

Conclusion

Overall, the majority of patients referred from other HBs received iron transfusion therapy locally and subsequently all successfully underwent surgery.

Our study shows that a Hub and Spoke model is feasible and allows patients to receive their treatment locally, however further work and supervision is required to ensure all patients referred receive the same standard of care.