

Parenteral Iron

Iron sucrose (Venofer®), iron isomaltoside (Monoferric®) and ferric gluconate (Ferrlecit®) may be used to treat iron deficiency anemia when oral iron trials have failed due to intolerance or poor response.

Consider the following when assessing adequacy of oral iron trials:

- Aim for 200 mg elemental iron per day and a 3 month trial.
- If nausea occurs on daily dosing: reduce dose, trial alternate day dosing or give with food
- Examples of adequate oral iron trials:
 - 100 to 200 mg elemental iron on an empty stomach for 3 months
 - 100 to 200 mg elemental iron PO QHS every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for 3 months

Iron Sucrose

Iron sucrose is the least expensive parenteral iron on formulary but internal reviews indicate up to 50% of its use is not indicated. It is not a restricted medication, however, consider the following criteria:

- intolerance or poor response to oral iron *AND* one of
 - ferritin less than 30 mcg/L *OR*
 - ferritin less than 200 mcg/L plus iron saturation less than 20% *OR*
 - Hgb less than 95 g/L and iron saturation less than 22% in patients with chronic kidney disease including those who are dialysis dependent *OR*
 - Hgb less than 100 g/L and ferritin less than 50 mcg/L in pregnant patients

Iron Isomaltoside

Iron isomaltoside is significantly more expensive than iron sucrose. In order to prescribe this medication, ALL of the following restriction criteria must be satisfied:

- intolerance or poor response to oral iron *AND*
- ferritin less than 30 mcg/L *OR* ferritin less than 200 mcg/L plus iron saturation less than 20% *AND*
- hematologist, gastroenterologist or internal medicine specialist prescriber *AND*
- gastrointestinal malabsorption syndrome (for example, inflammatory bowel disease, active Celiac disease, atrophic gastritis) *AND*
- hemoglobin less than 110 g/L *AND*
- total dose required exceeds 300 mg IV iron elemental

Ferric Gluconate

This medication is prescribed by nephrologists and is restricted for treatment of iron deficiency anemia in chronic hemodialysis patients.

Prescribing Parenteral Iron

Starting September 1, 2021, for both inpatient and outpatient prescriptions, the following Fraser Health Authority pre-printed order is required: Parenteral Iron: Inpatient and Outpatient – Adult – Pre-Printed Order.

For inpatients, the pre-printed order is available on WebFormImprint.

For outpatients, the pre-printed order is available at <http://medicalstaff.fraserhealth.ca/Clinical-Resources> under the Forms tab and on PathwaysBC at <https://pathwaysbc.ca/login>.

For questions related to this bulletin, please contact Elissa Aeng (Medication Use Evaluation Pharmacist) at Elissa.Aeng@fraserhealth.ca