

MEMO

To: South West LHIN Stakeholders
From: Daryl Nancekivell, VP Home & Community Care - South West LHIN
Re: New Clinical Protocols: First Dose IV & Iron Sucrose in the Community
Date: November 2019

After listening to feedback from our patients, system partners and engaging extensively with our stakeholders, the South West LHIN is pleased to announce that we are now able administer the first dose of IV medications and subsequent doses of IV Iron Sucrose in the community [a patient's home and in our Community Nursing Clinics].

The South West LHIN currently supports over 200 patients per month with their IV medications in their homes, or in one of our Community Nursing Clinics. Previously, these patients were required to receive their first dose of a prescribed medication in an acute care setting. While there are times when acute care delivery is clinically necessary, the South West LHIN is now aligned to partner with Prescribers to provide this services when it is determined appropriate to do so. By developing new protocols, and responsibility enhancing infusion practice in the community settings, we can reduce unnecessary utilization of the Emergency Departments and/or Urgent Care settings.

In addition, the administration of IV Iron Sucrose has been supported inconsistently across the South West LHIN region. We have now established consistent parameters and standards for this practice that will support equitable access for patients, reduce prescriber confusion and develops a more fulsome, shared partnership.

As of November 1st 2019, Prescribers will now have 2 new options:

1. **First Dose IV Administration in the Community** - Referrals may be administered for patients with no history of allergy to the prescribed medication, or medication in the same class.
2. **IV Iron Sucrose** may also be now administered in the community as long as the patient has had **two previous doses** in an acute care setting without adverse reaction within the last 90 days.

The Prescriber must sign and complete our newly developed “First Dose IV & Iron Sucrose Screener” and fax in with completed SW LHIN IV Referral Form or appropriate prescription.

The screener ensures parameters are in place to manage the risk of unexpected drug reactions, hypersensitivity reaction or anaphylaxis. While rare, we wish to ensure the safety of patients. All of our Nursing agencies have policies and procedures in place to support first dose in the home and the first dose screener builds on these policies to ensure a consistent approach across nursing providers in the South West.

We ask that the “*First Dose IV & Iron Sucrose Screener*” be distributed to all Prescribers within your organization for use starting immediately. This new screener & the IV Antibiotic Referral Form are being built into Primary Care EMR systems and can also be accessed through the [SW LHIN website](#).

Should you have any questions, please contact [Laura Waller](#), NP-PHC, BScN, MN, Manager of Professional Practice. Thank you for your support as we continue to work together to ensure the delivery of high quality, safe care to our patients using best practices.