University Health™	**POLICY#: 2.4**
SUBJECT: High Risk – Iron Dextran	**Effective: 10/01/13**
APPROVED BY: Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee	Page 1 of 1

Purpose: To identify Iron Dextran as a high alert medication and provide guidelines for the safe intravenous administration of this medication to patients.

Prescribing:

1. The physician must remain on the unit for one-hour post-test dose.
2. Do NOT administer IM.

Appropriate indications for use include:

1. Iron Deficiency Anemia in adults and pediatrics 4 months of age and older with documented iron deficiency in whom oral administration is unsatisfactory or impossible

Dispensing:

1. Pharmacy will dispense the test dose (25mg of iron dextran in 50mL NS IVPB) and the following doses in Normal Saline.

Administration:

1. Maximum daily limits should not exceed 0.5mg (25 mg of iron) for infants under 5 kg (11 lbs); 1ml (50 mg of iron) for children under 10 kg (22lbs); and 2 ml (100mg of iron) for other patients.
   Exception: when a physician determines a patient should be treated under total dose protocol.
2. A test dose of 25mg IVPB must be given prior to administration of the total dose. This test dose must be given intravenously at a gradual rate over 30 seconds (for Infed) or 5 minutes (for Dexferrum). Each time a new course of therapy is begun, another test dose must be given.
3. The total dose infusion may be given at least one hour after the test dose is completed if no reactions occur. It should be administered per an infusion device over 4 to 6 hours
4. Adverse reactions to intravenously administered iron dextran may be immediate or delayed. Anaphylactoid reactions can occur; therefore epinephrine and benadryl must be readily available.

Specific Monitoring Parameters:

The patient should be monitored as listed in the package insert.

1. Vital signs – should be taken and recorded within 15 minutes of completion of the test dose
2. Electrolytes
3. CBC
4. Serum Fe levels
5. Liver/Renal function tests
6. PT/INR and PTT

Adverse Effects:

The patient should be monitored for the following adverse effects:

1. Dermatologic: Pruritus, Rash, Urticaria
2. Gastrointestinal: Abdominal pain, Diarrhea, Nausea and vomiting
3. Musculoskeletal: Arthralgia, Arthritis
4. Cardiovascular: Chest pain, Hypotension
5. Immunologic: Anaphylaxis and Hypersensitivity reactions
6. Neurologic: Headache, Seizure, Seizure
7. Respiratory: Dyspnea, Respiratory arrest

References:

1. DexFerrum® [package insert]. Shirley (NY): American Regent Laboratories, Inc.; 2009.

2. Food and Drug Administration. http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm186899.htm. Accessed 10/26/10
3. ISMP Medication Safety Alert. http://www.ismp.org/Tools/FDASafetyAlerts.asp. Accessed 10/26/10.
4. Thompson Micromedex. http://www.thomsonhc.com/hcs/librarian/ND_T/HCS/ND_PR/Main/CS/17E4B6/DUPLICATIONSHIELDSYNC/7A6DB5/ND_PG/PRIH/ND_B/HCS/SBK/1/ND_P/Main/PFActionId/hcs.common.RetrieveDocumentCommon/DocId/304970/ContentSetId/100/SearchTerm/iron/SearchOption/BeginWith. Accessed 10/26/10.