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Use of Erythropoietin for Treating Anemia of Chronic Kidney Disease in a Hospitalized Pediatric Population: MUE

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Background: Patients with anemia of chronic kidney disease (CKD) lack the ability to produce erythropoietin causing a deficiency of red blood cells. Erythropoietin-stimulating agents (ESAs) are recommended by the National Kidney Foundation to treat anemia of CKD in adults; however, only recently have guidelines included pediatric dosing.

Purpose: Determine if ESAs are being used appropriately in hospitalized children with anemia of CKD in accordance with guidelines from the National Kidney Foundation.

Methods: This retrospective, non-interventional, cross-sectional medication use evaluation included all children <18 years old with anemia of CKD admitted to a large, tertiary-care hospital in 2010 (n=10).

Results: Dosage reduction followed elevated hemoglobin levels 87% (13/15) of the time. Compliance was 100% for iron supplementation, laboratory monitoring, and route of administration.

Conclusion: In children with CKD, ESA is being dosed and monitored at an acceptable rate of compliance in accordance with current national guidelines