

TAM SUBGROUP OF THE NHS HIGHLAND AREA DRUG AND THERAPEUTICS COMMITTEE

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MINUTE of extraordinary meeting of the TAM Subgroup of NHS Highland ADTC 24 March 2025, via Microsoft TEAMS

Present: Patricia Hannam, Formulary Pharmacist
Duncan Scott, Consultant Physician, Chair of this meeting
Louise Reid, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Anaesthetics
Simon Thompson, Consultant Physician
Damon Horn, Clinical Lead Pharmacist, Medicine

In attendance: Wendy Anderson, Formulary Assistant

To review decision on IV fluid calculator and guidance

Background

An extraordinary TAMSG meeting was called at short notice, which included the secondary care representatives of the TAMSG to review the decision made at the February TAM Subgroup around the IV fluids, and in particular the calculator.

An SBAR had been written and was tabled. A mock up with changes to the guidance had been done. At the February Subgroup meeting the IV fluid calculator and guidance was submitted and rejected but guidance for the ward is needed prior to the April TAMSG meeting.

DS and PH had met with Ross Paterson, the clinical lead for the calculator. It was acknowledged that the fluid guidance did not stand up to stress testing outwith the normal boundaries, however it was pointed out that the calculator provides answers in line with NICE guidance CG174 recommendations. The tool has to be seen as for use in 'normal' fluid balance. Any electrolyte imbalances need to be referred to other, appropriate guidance.

Stated that the provision of tools to support clinicians in their decision making helps to standardise good practice and is supportive rather than 'dumbing down'.

Ross Paterson and Ann Wales were able to provide evidence of use for the calculator stating that there have been no adverse events reported since the calculator has been in place. To note that in the past significant errors with IV fluid prescribing were routinely made.

Amendments/Comments

- In line with these suggestions the IV Fluids document has been adapted with excerpts included from the RDS calculator pdf instructions for use.
- Need to state what fluids are in use in NHS Highland where they differ to those recommended in the calculator.
- To include advice on when the calculator should be used and what advice to follow when it should not be used.
- Fluid composition details added.

- Felt this was a lot more contextualised and safer. Do we need extra information for level 2 patients eg patients post-op, pancreatitis etc. These are a patient group that might need more senior involvement. Add exclusion for use in critical care areas and to discuss with registrar level or above.
- Maintelyte should not be used in pregnant women. There needs to be very clear wording added around this to exclude glucose product.
- The special circumstances and extraordinary circumstances should come first before the link to the calculator.

IV fluids guidance

- Ward pilots (in this case piloting of fluids) is outwith Formulary business. There is concern as to which fluids should be recommended to be used. Should an IV fluid Formulary be developed or be managed via Hospital Pharmacy stockholding? Felt that the prescription chart is not fit for purpose; however this is being addressed via the ward pilot.

Group decision

Recommendations from this group are to be shared with the full TAMSG to seek approval or rejection of the amendments made to the issues raised at the February TAMSG. With the request that responses are to be received within the week.

Fluid prescription charts and consideration of a fluid formulary to be discussed at the April TAM Subgroup.