

5 YEAR TRENDS IN IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT OF IRON DEFICIENCY AT EAST SURREY HOSPITAL

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Introduction NICE guidelines¹ on red cell transfusion recommend offering iron replacement therapy to all iron deficient patients, and local policy at East Surrey Hospital reflects this

Methods We conducted a retrospective cross-sectional study, comparing data collected annually on all patients receiving red cell transfusion over a 2 week period from 2014 to 2018

Data included:

- Presence of iron deficiency at the time of transfusion
- Whether iron replacement was initiated
- Whether this was documented to the GP at discharge

Data was analysed to identify areas for improvement in line with national and local guidelines

Results (I) The proportion of patients identified as iron deficient through appropriate investigation declined from 27.6% in 2014 to 22.4% in 2018. The proportion of iron deficient patients receiving oral and IV iron replacement has improved from 37.5% and 6.3% respectively in 2014 to 46.2% and 61.5% in 2018 (Figure 1)

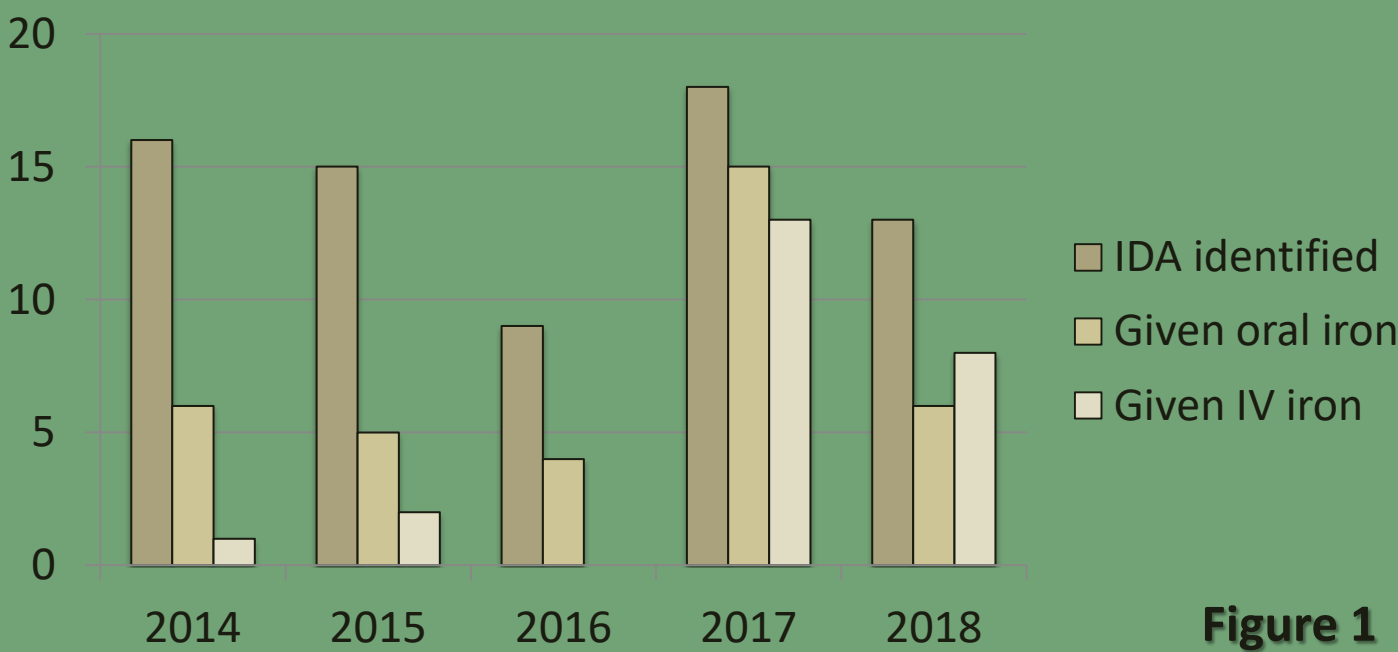


Figure 1

Presence of iron deficiency was poorly documented to GPs at discharge (Figure 2)

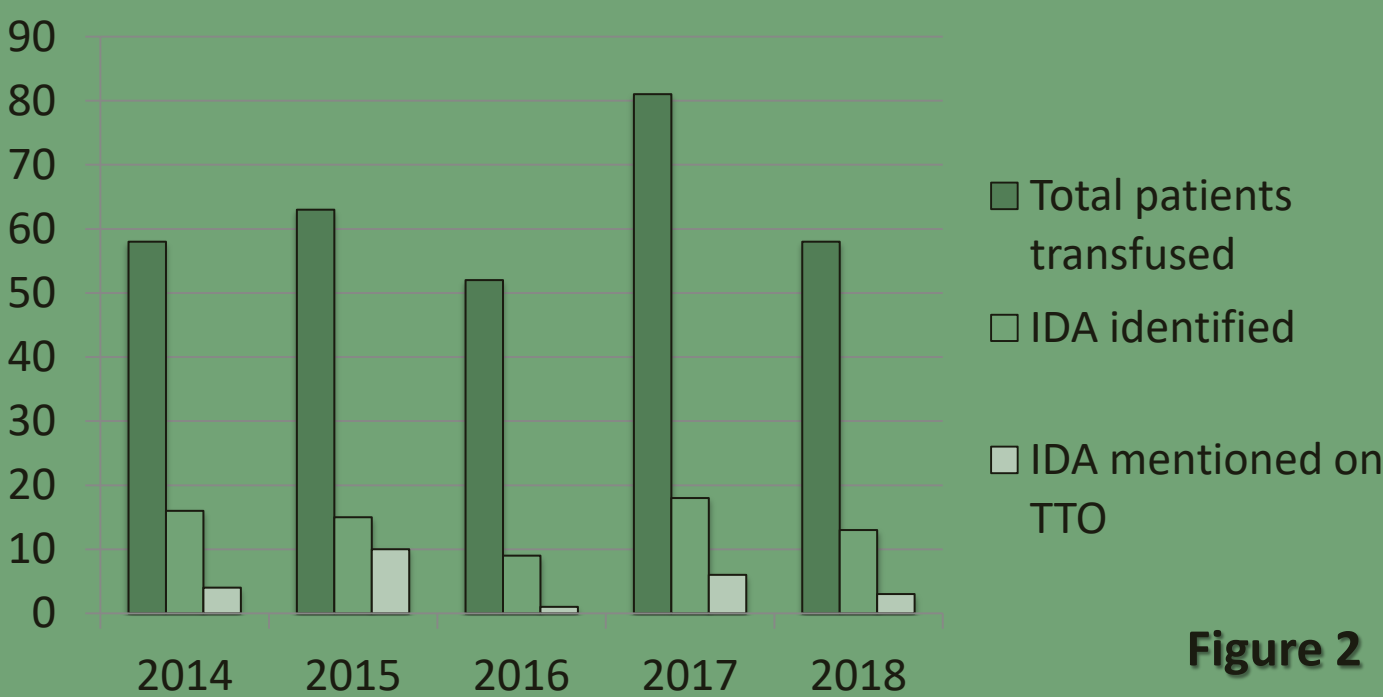


Figure 2

Results (II) Documentation of iron deficiency at discharge has not improved over the last 5 years. Figure 3 shows the proportion of patients with iron deficiency anaemia who had this documented at discharge.

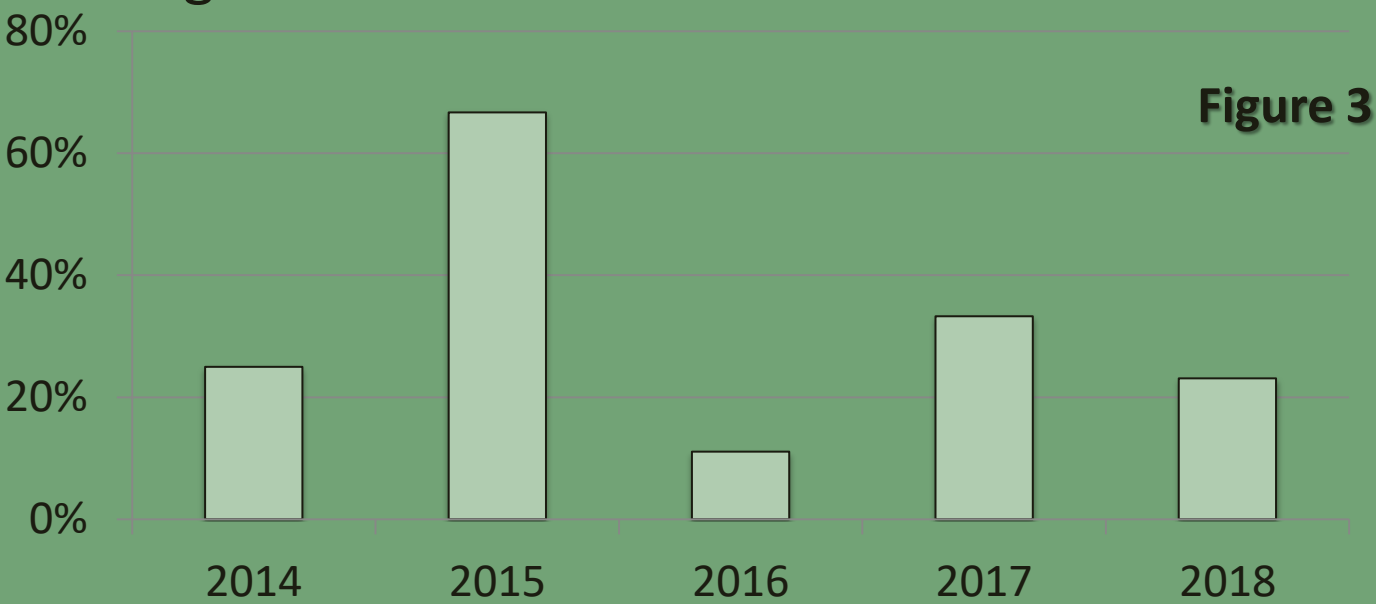


Figure 3

Discussion The key areas identified for ongoing improvement were:

- Documentation of iron deficiency to GPs at discharge
- Appropriate investigation for iron deficiency in anaemic patients

These improvements should lead to a decrease in the number of iron deficient patients treated inappropriately for their anaemia with blood transfusion

These areas for improvement are being addressed as follows:

- Promotion of existing guidelines and local policy on management of iron deficiency anaemia
- An electronic order set has been created to allow ease of ordering and interpretation of haematinics by junior doctors
- The electronic discharge summary software is being reviewed for ways to prompt doctors to document iron deficiency at discharge

Conclusion This study gave insight into areas requiring ongoing improvement with regards to the management of iron deficiency in East Surrey Hospital. Several interventions are being implemented, following which this data will be re-audited to look for improvement in line with local and national guidelines

References:

1) NICE guideline [NG24]. Blood transfusion. NICE, November 2015. Available from: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng24>