Scope: Departmental
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Sickle Cell Disease: Guidelines to Hydroxyurea

Version: 4

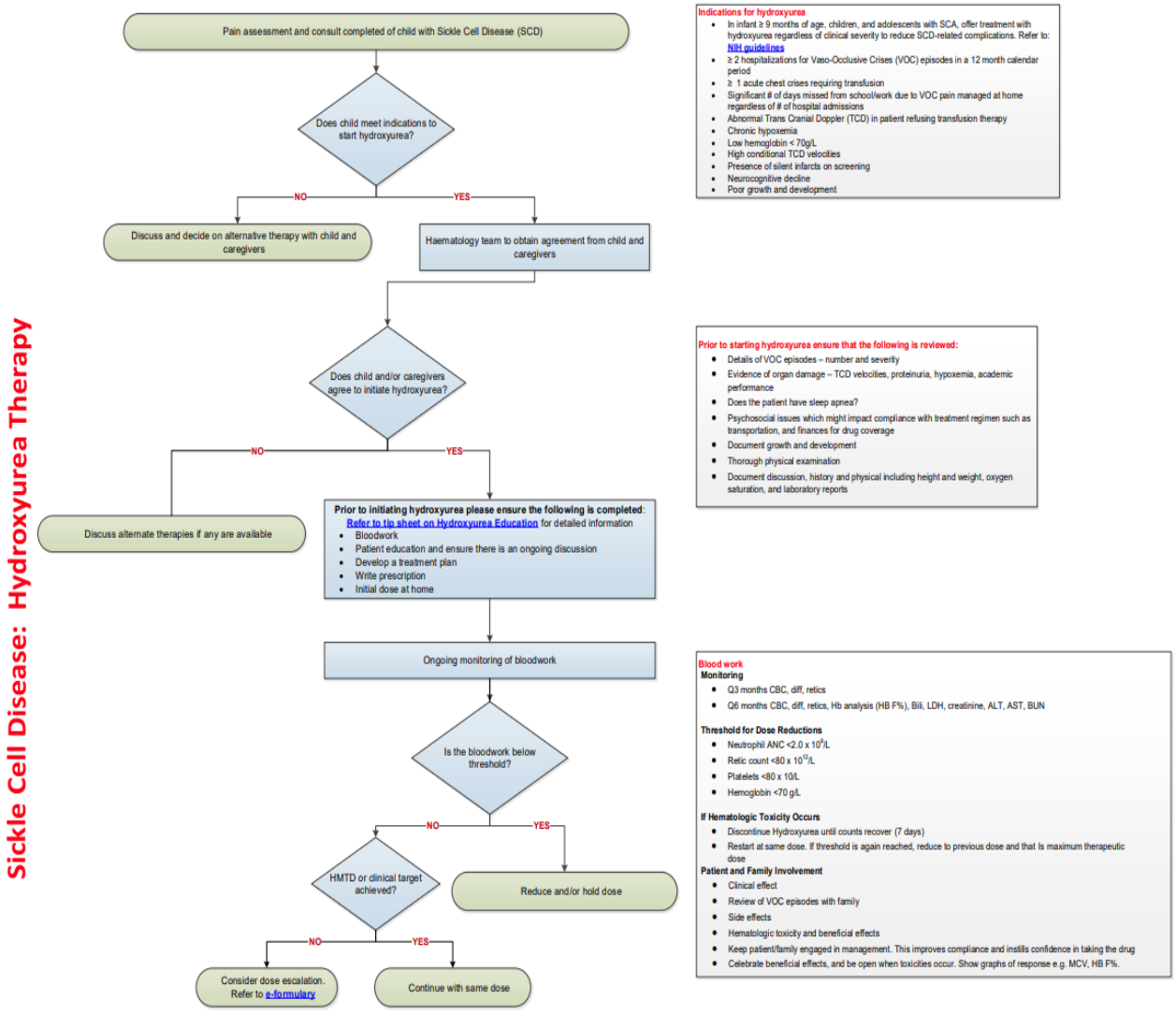
1.0 Policy statement

Patients admitted on hydroxyurea shall not be given hydroxyurea prescription on discharge. **Haematology is to prescribe in order to monitor blood work.**

2.0 Definitions

- **Hydroxyurea (HU)** is a chemotherapy medicine that has been used to treat many disorders, including sickle cell disease (SCD). Research has shown that patients with sickle cell disease who take hydroxyurea are admitted to hospital because of painful events only half as often as patients who do not take hydroxyurea, have fewer acute chest crises and have less need for blood transfusions if they are admitted to hospital. Please see www.aboutkidshealth.ca.
- **Maximum Therapeutic Dose (MTD)** is maximum dose or clinical efficacy achieved.
- **Transcranial Doppler (TCD)** is a non-invasive ultrasound used to screen for strokes measuring the rate of blood flow through the large vessels on both sides of the brain.
- **Vaso-Occlusive Crises (VOC)** are blockages of the blood vessels anywhere in the body by deformed red blood cells. This causes a lack of oxygen in the affected area of the body. Symptoms depend on where the blood vessels are blocked.

3.0 Guideline



PRINTABLE VERSION

4.0 Related Documents

Dissolve and Dose Drug Administration
Chemotherapy At Home: Safely Handling and Giving Medicines
Chemotherapy At Home: Safely Giving Your Child Capsules
Hydroxyurea Education and Discussions Tip Sheet
hydroxyUREA 100 mg/mL Oral Suspension

5.0 References

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5. Steinberg MH, Barton F, Castro O, et al. Effect of hydroxyurea on mortality and morbidity in adult sickle cell anemia: risks and benefits up to 9 years of treatment. JAMA. 2003;289(13):1645-1651.

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8. Wang WC, Helms RW, Lynn HS, et al. Effect of anemia: results of the HUG-KIDS study. J. Pediatr. 2002;140(2):225-229.

9. Ware, RE. How I use hydroxyurea to treat sickle cell disease. Blood 1 July 2010.Vol 115, Number 26

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Attachments:

Algorithm: Hydroxyurea Therapy

Hydroxyurea Education and Discussions Tip Sheet.pdf

hydroxyUREA 100 mg/mL Oral Suspension

Revision History.docx