Health Information and Quality Authority

An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

ROUND UP OF OUR HTA

REPORTS, REVIEWS AND ADVICE

April- June 2023

Domiciliary invasive ventilation for adults with spinal cord injuries

THE PURPOSE

Our HTA was conducted to inform the national delivery of care for adults with spinal cord injuries who require permanent invasive mechanical ventilation and can be discharged home.

It was requested by the Health Service Executive and the National Rehabilitation Hospital.

WHAT IS A SPINAL CORD INJURY (SCI)?

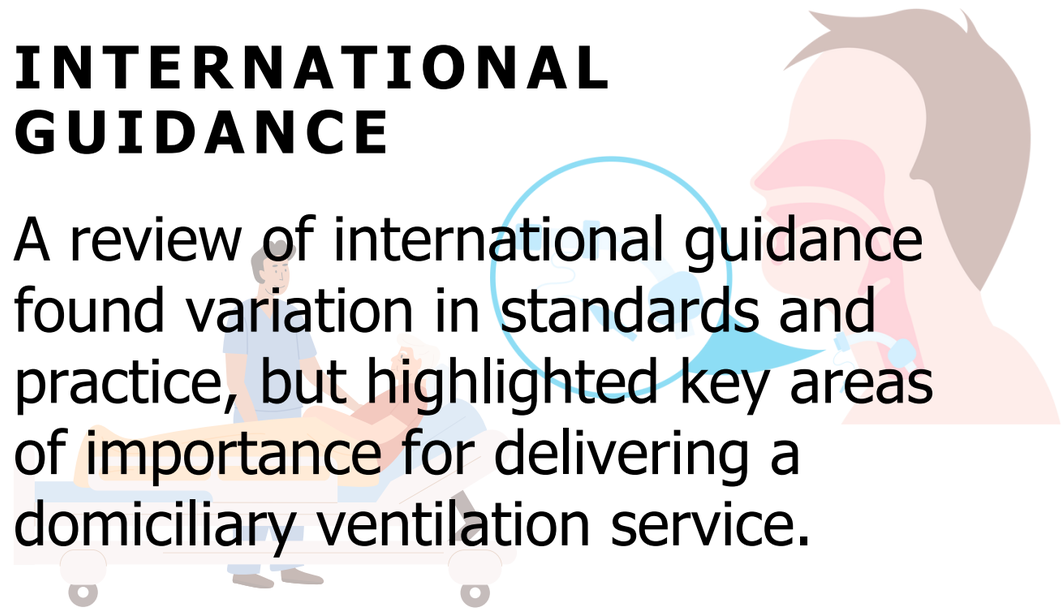
Spinal cord injury (SCI) is damage to the spinal cord resulting from accidents, falls, or diseases that can cause partial or complete loss of sensation and motor function below the injury site.

The higher up the spinal cord the injury occurs, the more extensive the range of impairments will generally be.

CHALLENGES IN DISCHARGE

While domiciliary ventilation is currently standard practice in Ireland for these patients, there are many challenges involved in their safe discharge home, such as funding and staffing.

INTERNATIONAL GUIDANCE



A review of international guidance found variation in standards and practice, but highlighted key areas of importance for delivering a domiciliary ventilation service.

BUDGET IMPACT

The total budget impact for the HSE of providing domiciliary ventilation care is estimated to be approximately €3.4 million per patient over five years.

It is unclear whether care at home would cost more or less than hospital care for these patients.

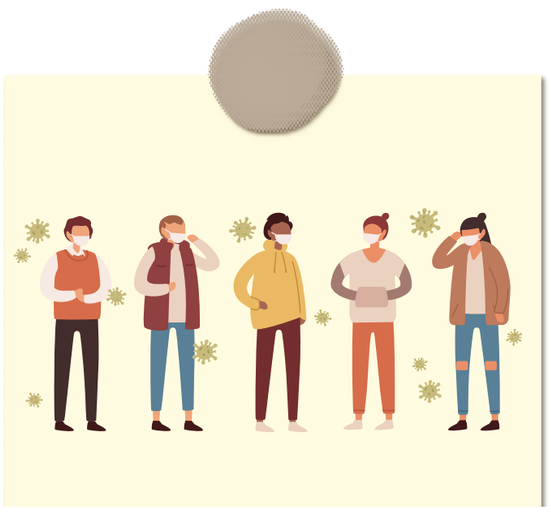
ADVICE

Finding from this HTA supports the development of a national clinical pathway for this patient cohort that extends into the community.

This pathway should have an overarching clinical governance framework, and would benefit from a national training and support role, and to be funded through a centralised budget.

International review on the epidemiology of long COVID

HIQA reviewed the international evidence to identify the prevalence, symptoms and risk factors for developing long COVID.



Epidemiology

Long COVID is a complex condition involving a wide range of symptoms that can be debilitating and vary significantly from person to person. The most common symptoms include fatigue, brain fog, memory loss and or confusion, loss of smell and shortness of breath.

Clinical Burden

Long COVID places a large burden on healthcare services. In studies based on self-reported data, estimates for the prevalence of long COVID in the general population ranged from 15% to 53%.

Risk Factors

Long COVID can affect anyone. It is more likely to affect you if you are a woman, older, were admitted to hospital because of COVID-19 or have a respiratory condition such as asthma.

Prevention

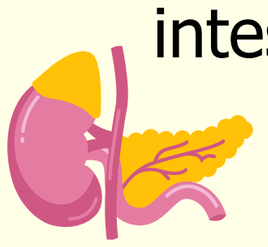
Based on our knowledge of COVID-19 and long COVID, it is important to follow public health advice to minimise the risk of infection or reinfection. This includes supporting people to avail of the COVID-19 vaccine and to obtain their scheduled booster doses to reduce the severity of COVID-19 cases and potentially the incidence of long COVID.

Generic justification

HIQA generically justifies Lutetium (^{177}Lu) oxodotreotide for the treatment of metastatic or inoperable gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumours (NETs)

NETs are rare cancers which can develop almost anywhere in the body.

They mainly occur in the lungs, appendix, small intestine, rectum and pancreas.



The radionuclide ^{177}Lu is a treatment option for some patients with NETs in the gut that cannot be removed or have spread.

Why did we perform this review?

New practices involving patients' exposure to ionising radiation must be justified by the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA).

A radionuclide is a cancer medicine that emits a small amount of radioactivity, which causes damage to tumour cells. This type of treatment is only for NETs with a particular kind of receptor on the surface of their cells, called somatostatin receptors.

Until recently, patients had to travel abroad to access this treatment. However, the HSE and the National Cancer Control Programme wish to provide this treatment in the Republic of Ireland.

Available evidence indicates that ^{177}Lu is a safe and effective treatment for this patient group.

It has been shown to slow the progression of NETs and offers a better quality of life than other treatment plans.

Published by the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA).

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