Introduction

Anemia management is a very important aspect of the care of patients with kidney disease all over the world. It is a factor in patient well being and the outcomes they experience. It is a complicated therapy which must balance efficacy and safety. The need for attention to hemoglobin levels and appropriate response to therapy is present in CKD Stages 3, 4, and 5, and in all dialysis and kidney transplant recipients.

Clinical practice guidelines on anemia have been developed and disseminated by a number of organizations over the past decade. These have clearly made a difference in decreasing the prevalence of anemia and improving outcomes. In addition to the patient care aspect of these guidelines, they have raised important public health questions. Anemia therapy with ESAs and iron (usually administered parenterally) is expensive and there are relatively few products available. Governments have made special provision for the cost of ESAs and parenteral iron and have an acute interest in any recommendation on target hemoglobin ranges that best balance benefits and risks. This has led to controversy on several occasions.

2006 saw additional information reported on safety and efficacy that questioned the advisability of very high hemoglobin targets. This led to questions about the funding of guidelines by industry with a financial stake in the therapy. It appears that the treatment of anemia will continue to receive close attention for some time and should be addressed by the major guideline development groups in the near term as well as beyond 2007.

KDIGO has taken the lead in fostering communication and collaboration among the five major nephrology organizations that have developed practice guidelines and published them in English. These include CARI guidelines in Australia, KDOQI guidelines in the United States, Canadian Society of Nephrology guidelines in Canada, UK Renal Association guidelines in the United Kingdom and European Best Practice Guidelines in Europe. Given the importance of correcting anemia in CKD patients and the continued interest in the subject, KDIGO believes it is in the interest of the global nephrology community to come together to discuss the emerging safety and efficacy findings concerning anemia management and anemia guidelines as well as the public health and trust implications. The KDIGO Board of Directors at its meeting in December 2006 approved the convening of a “Coordination of Anemia Guidelines” Conference for this purpose.
The Conference

The conference will be held under the leadership of KDIGO but cooperatively with the five guideline development organizations. Participants will include the leadership of those five organizations and individuals who have been members of their anemia guideline work groups. Other experts would be invited as well. There will be plenary sessions and break out sessions to discuss selected aspects of the issues. The meeting will be held over two days in New York, NY USA. Funding would be sought in equal measure from companies interested in the field; however, no industry participation in the development of the program, selection of participants, conduct of breakout groups or final recommendations will be allowed.

After publication of the consensus statement, a plan for future guidelines and the process of coordination can be implemented. Complete coordination between government, industry, physician and patient recommendations may be difficult, but, if this is truly an important element in the treatment of CKD patients, it is worth the effort.

KDIGO as a global unifying force in nephrology guidelines can facilitate this process and provide the leadership needed to improve treatment, minimize controversy and coordinate efforts around the world to a common purpose of providing the best treatment for patients.

KDIGO Controversies Conference
Coordination of Clinical Practice Guidelines on Anemia in CKD
15-16 October, 2007
New York, NY USA

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Day One – Monday, 15 October, 2007
13:00 – 18:00 hrs

11:00 – 12:30 hrs  Pre-meeting with speakers and Breakout group co-chairs only

12:00 – 13:00 hrs  Lunch

LOCATION
Riverside Suite

Hudson Suite
**Introduction: Meeting Overview**

Hudson Suite

13:00 – 13:10 hrs  **Welcome and Introductions**  
Norbert Lameire

Garabed Eknoyan

13:25 – 14:00 hrs  **Goals and Objectives of the Meeting**  
Allen Nissenson and Francesco Locatelli

**Plenary Sessions:**

Session Moderators: Francesco Locatelli and Allen Nissenson

14:00 – 14:30 hrs  **Comparison of evidence review process for five primary global anemia guidelines**  
Presenter: Alison MacLeod (in consultation with K. Uhlig)

14:30 – 15:00 hrs  **Comparison of recommendations from five primary global anemia guidelines**  
Presenter: Ray Vanholder (in consultation with M. Rocco)

15:00 – 15:30 hrs  **KDOQI 2007 Update on hemoglobin target: Recommendation and evidence base**  
Presenter: Kai-Uwe Eckardt (in consultation with D. van Wycke)

15:30 - 16:15 hrs  **New data and developments since publication of latest guidelines**  
- **Erythropoietin Stimulating Agents**  
  Presenter: Iain MacDougall
- **Iron Supplementation**  
  Presenter: Rajiv Agarwal

16:15 - 16:30 hrs  **Break**

16:30 – 17:10 hrs  **Anemia and Cardiac Disease**  
Presenter: Scott Solomon

17:10 – 18:10 hrs  **Anemia and quality of life (QOL) measurements**  
- **Validity of QOL instruments as an outcome measure**
Presenter: Dennis Revicki
- Studies on QOL and anemia – What does it show?
  Presenter: Paul Kimmel

18:10 – 18:40 hrs
Coordination of future anemia guidelines - what can be done?
Presenter: Jeffrey Berns (in consultation with Kai-Uwe Eckardt)

18:40 – 18:50 hrs
Overview of tomorrow’s activities and challenges
Presenter: Francesco Locatelli and Allen Nissenson

18:50
Adjourn for day one

20:30 – 22:00 hrs
Group Dinner (Meet in Hotel Lobby at 20:15)

Day Two – Tuesday, 16 October 2007
7:30 to 16:30 hrs

7:30 - 8:00 hrs
Continental Breakfast (Outside Breakout Room)

08:00 – 12:00 hrs
Breakout Sessions
Group One
Discussion Leaders: Allen Nissenson and Rowan Walker
Fashion Suite

Group Two
Discussion Leaders: Francesco Locatelli and Brendan Barrett
Riverside Suite

10:00 – 10:30
Break

12:00 – 13:30 hrs
Lunch
12:00 – 13:30 hrs  **Meeting of Breakout Group Leaders**
  • Summarize and draft recommendations

**Plenary Session:**

*Hudson Suite*

13:30 – 16:00 hrs  **Presentation and Discussion of Recommendations**

16:00 – 16:30 hrs  **Closing Remarks**

16:30  **Adjourn**