Example Diagnostic Algorithm:
Absolute & Functional Iron Deficiency

Absolute Reticulocyte Count

- Low
  - Comorbidity present
    1. Cardiovascular disease
    2. Inflammatory Bowel Disease
    3. Cancer
    4. Other chronic illness
    5. Chronic Renal Failure
  - Fe/TIBC, Ferritin
    - Low/High, Low
      - Complete response
      - Follow
    - Low/Low, High
      - Concomitant Functional Iron Deficiency present. Replace IRON IV. (Oral largely ineffective.)
      - Yes
      - Complete response
      - Follow
      - Incomplete response
        - Recheck Fe parameters; may need repeat Fe Rx, especially if evidence of renewed bleeding.
        - Probably needs concomitant ESA if Hb<10 or if chronic renal failure<12. Repeat IV IRON when hyporesponsive if TSAT <40 and Ferritin <1000. (safety data exists)
    - Fe/TIBC, Ferritin
      - Low/High, Low
        - Look for source of blood loss
        - Replace Iron
      - Something else
        - Look for other cause including undiagnosed comorbidity

Otherwise well

Follow

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