

Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agents (ESAs) - Epoetin (Procrit, Epogen) or Darbepoetin alpha (Aranesp)  
Prior Authorization Criteria  
WVP Health Authority Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee  
November, 2017

1. Is the diagnosis being treated funded on OHP and appropriately treated with an ESA?
  - Anemia due to chronic kidney disease
  - Anemia due to chemotherapy in cancer patients
  - Anemia due to use of zidovudine in HIV patients
  - a. Yes – Go to question 2
  - b. No – Deny Cat 1- *Member diagnosis is not a funded condition on the OHP prioritized list*  
OR Cat 3 – *Medication is being prescribed outside of FDA approved prescribing.*
  
2. Is the diagnosis anemia due to chronic renal failure or chemotherapy?
  - a. Yes- Go to question 3
  - b. No- Go to question 4
  
3. Is member Hgb < 10g/dL or Hct < 30%  
AND transferrin saturation >20%  
AND ferritin > 100 ng/mL
  - a. Yes – May approve up to 12 weeks of therapy
  - b. No- Deny Cat 5- *Not medically appropriate- Prior to and during therapy, iron stores must be evaluated. Supplemental iron is recommended if serum ferritin <100 mcg/L or serum transferrin saturation <20%. Most patients with chronic kidney disease will require iron supplementation.*
  
4. Is member anemia due to use of zidovudine to treat HIV infection?
  - a. Yes- Go to question 5
  - b. No- Deny Cat 3- *Medication is being prescribed outside of FDA approved prescribing*
  
5. Is the Hgb <10 g/dL or Hct <30%  
AND  
Transferrin saturation >20%  
AND  
Endogenous erythropoietin <500 IU/L  
AND  
If on zidovudine, is dose <4200 mg/week?
  - a. Yes- Approve up to 12 months
  - b. No – Deny Cat 5- *Member does not meet medical appropriateness conditions for administration of ESA agent.*

### Renewal Criteria

1. Has the patient responded to initial therapy?

*Must include evaluation of iron stores and member compliance with iron supplement-*

- a. Yes- May approve up to 12 months
- b. No –Evaluate appropriateness of administration with initial approval criteria  
May forward to Medical Director

*If Inadequate or lack of response over a 12-week escalation period, further increases are unlikely to improve response and may increase risks. Evaluate patient for other causes of anemia. Discontinue therapy if responsiveness does not improve*