

Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agents (ESAs) - Epoetin (Procrit, Epogen) or Darbepoetin alpha (Aranesp)

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