

Epogen[®], Procrit[®], Retacrit[®] (epoetin alfa) Injection



When requesting Epogen[®], Procrit[®], Retacrit[®] (epoetin alfa) injection for non-oncology anemia, the individual requiring treatment must be diagnosed with one of the following FDA-approved indications and meet the specific coverage guidelines and applicable safety criteria for the covered indications.

FDA-approved Non-oncology Indications

- Anemia associated with chronic kidney disease (CKD) in individuals on dialysis and individuals not on dialysis
- Anemia associated with zidovudine use in HIV-infected patients
- Pre-surgical use to reduce allogeneic blood transfusions

Coverage Guidelines

Anemia in Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)

- An individual is on dialysis
OR
- An individual is not on dialysis and must meet the following criteria:
 - Has adequate iron stores OR is currently receiving iron therapy
 - *For an initial authorization* – must have a hemoglobin <10.0 g/dL for 18 years of age or older OR a hemoglobin ≤11.0 g/dL for less than 18 years of age
 - *For individuals who are currently receiving an erythropoiesis-stimulating agent (e.g., an epoetin alfa product [e.g., Epogen, Procrit, or Retacrit], a darbepoetin alfa product [e.g., Aranesp], a methoxy polyethylene glycol-epoetin beta product [e.g., Mircera])* – must have a hemoglobin <11.5 g/dL for 18 years of age or older OR a hemoglobin ≤12.0 g/dL for less than 18 years of age

Anemia associated with zidovudine use in HIV-infected patients

- Is currently receiving zidovudine therapy
- Has adequate iron stores OR is currently receiving iron therapy
- *For an initial authorization* – must have a hemoglobin <10.0 g/dL OR has a serum erythropoietin level ≤500 mU/mL
- *For individuals who are currently receiving an erythropoiesis-stimulating agent (e.g., an epoetin alfa product [e.g., Epogen, Procrit, or Retacrit], a darbepoetin alfa product [e.g., Aranesp])* – must have a hemoglobin ≤12.0 g/dL

Reduction of allogeneic red blood cell transfusion in patients undergoing surgery

The individual must meet ALL of the following criteria:

- Has a hemoglobin ≤13.0 g/dL
- The surgery is elective, nonvascular, and noncardiac
- Is not willing or able to donate autologous blood prior to surgery
- Has adequate iron stores OR is currently receiving iron therapy

Approval Duration: 1 month (for surgery) and 12 months (for all other indications)

Dosing Recommendations

Anemia associated with chronic kidney disease (CKD) for patients on dialysis

The recommended initial dose is 50 to 100 units/kg 3 times weekly in adults or 50 units/kg 3 times weekly in pediatric patients.

Zidovudine-associated anemia in HIV-infected patients

The recommended dose is 100 units/kg 3 times weekly.

Reduction of allogeneic blood transfusion requirements in anemic surgery patients

The recommended dose is 300 units/kg per day daily for 15 days or 600 units/kg weekly.

References

1. Procrit® injection for intravenous or subcutaneous use [prescribing information]. Horsham, PA: Janssen; May 2020.
2. Epogen® injection for intravenous or subcutaneous use [prescribing information]. Thousand Oaks, CA: Amgen, Inc.; July 2018.
3. Retacrit™ injection for subcutaneous or intravenous use [prescribing information]. New York, NY and Lake Forest, IL: Pfizer and Hospira; August 2020.
4. Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) Anemia Work Group. KDIGO Clinical Practice Guideline for Anemia in Chronic Kidney Disease. *Kidney Int.* 2012; 2(Suppl):279-335.
5. Epoetin alfa. Lexi-Drugs. Lexicomp. Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc. Riverwoods, IL. [Updated; April 9, 2021; Accessed July 28, 2021].