



Updated: 03/2023  
DMMA Approved: 03/2023

**Request for Prior Authorization for Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agents**  
**Website Form – [www.highmarkhealthoptions.com](http://www.highmarkhealthoptions.com)**  
**Submit request via: Fax - 1-855-476-4158**

All requests for Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agents require a Prior Authorization and will be screened for medical necessity and appropriateness using the criteria listed below.

**Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agents Prior Authorization Criteria:**

ESAs include Aranesp (darbepoetin alfa), Epogen (epoetin alfa), Procrit (epoetin alfa), Retacrit (epoetin alfa-epbx), Mircera (methoxy polyethylene glycol-epoetin beta). New products with this classification will require the same documentation.

For oncology requests for ESAs, the following criteria must be met:

- Must have tried the preferred biosimilar agent(s) FDA-approved or medically accepted for the member's diagnosis
- For non-preferred agents, must have a therapeutic failure, contraindication, or intolerance to the preferred agent(s) FDA-approved or medically accepted for the member's diagnosis

For non-oncology requests for ESAs the following criteria must be met in addition to the diagnosis specific requirements below:

- Medication is prescribed by, or in consultation with, a hematologist, oncologist, nephrologist, or infectious disease specialist.
- Member has been evaluated for other causes of anemia (e.g., vitamin deficiency, bleeding, metabolic or chronic inflammatory conditions, etc.).
- Must have adequately controlled blood pressure
- Member's iron status has been evaluated prior to and during erythropoietin therapy. Transferrin saturation (TSAT) should be >20% and serum ferritin >100 ng/mL or the member should be on concurrent iron therapy.
- If hemoglobin exceeds a threshold listed below, prescriber must indicate erythropoietin will be held or titrated downward.
- Lab results (e.g., hemoglobin) must be from within 30 days of the request.
- Must have tried the preferred biosimilar agent(s) FDA-approved or medically accepted for the member's diagnosis
- For non-preferred agents, must have a therapeutic failure, contraindication, or intolerance to the preferred agent(s) FDA-approved or medically accepted for the member's diagnosis
- Must be used for an FDA-approved or medically accepted indication
- The requested dose and frequency is in accordance with FDA-approved labeling, nationally recognized compendia, and/or evidence-based practice guidelines

Coverage may be provided for **anemia of chronic renal disease** when the following criteria is met:

- Hemoglobin < 10 g/dL
- **Initial Duration of Approval:** 3 months
- **Reauthorization Criteria:**

- For adults, hemoglobin  $\leq 10$  g/dL for members not on dialysis OR hemoglobin  $\leq 11$  g/dL for members on dialysis
- For pediatrics, hemoglobin  $\leq 12$  g/dL
- Must be on concurrent iron therapy unless both the transferrin saturation (TSAT)  $\geq 20\%$  and serum ferritin  $\geq 100$  ng/mL
- **Reauthorization Duration of Approval:** 6 months

Coverage may be provided for **anemia due to treatment with zidovudine in HIV** when the following criteria is met:

- Hemoglobin  $< 10$  g/dL
- Member has a serum erythropoietin level  $\leq 500$  mUnits/mL
- Member is receiving a dose of zidovudine  $\leq 4200$  mg/week
- **Initial Duration of Approval:** 3 months
- **Reauthorization Criteria:**
  - Hemoglobin  $\leq 12$  g/dL
  - Must be on concurrent iron therapy unless both the transferrin saturation (TSAT)  $\geq 20\%$  and serum ferritin  $\geq 100$  ng/mL
- **Reauthorization Duration of Approval:** 6 months

Coverage may be provided to **reduce the need for allogeneic blood transfusions in surgery patients** when the following criteria is met:

- Member is scheduled to undergo elective, noncardiac, nonvascular surgery
- Hemoglobin must be  $>10$  g/dL and  $\leq 13$  g/dL
- **Initial Duration of Approval:** 1 month
- **Reauthorization Criteria:**
  - Provided on a case by case basis, refer to initial criteria for reauthorization
- **Reauthorization Duration of Approval:** 1 month

Coverage may be provided for any non-FDA labeled indication if it is determined that the use is a medically accepted indication supported by nationally recognized pharmacy compendia or peer-reviewed medical literature for treatment of the diagnosis(es) for which it is prescribed. These requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis to determine medical necessity.

Drugs are authorized in generic form unless the branded product is on the preferred drug list or the prescriber has indicated in writing that the branded product is medically necessary. If only the branded product is on the preferred drug list, the generic form will be considered non-preferred and shall not require the prescriber to indicate in writing that the branded product is medically necessary.

## ERYTHROPOETIN STIMULATING AGENTS PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FORM

Please complete and fax all requested information below including any progress notes, laboratory test results, or chart documentation as applicable to Highmark Health Options Pharmacy Services. **FAX: (855) 476-4158**

If needed, you may call to speak to a Pharmacy Services Representative. **PHONE: (844) 325-6251 Mon – Fri 8 am to 7 pm**

### PROVIDER INFORMATION

Requesting Provider:	NPI:
Provider Specialty:	Office Contact:
Office Address:	Office Phone:
	Office Fax:

### MEMBER INFORMATION

Member Name:	DOB:
Member ID:	Member weight: Height:

### REQUESTED DRUG INFORMATION

Medication:	Strength:
Directions:	Quantity: Refills:
Is the member currently receiving requested medication? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date Medication Initiated:	
Is this medication being used for a chronic or long-term condition for which the medication may be necessary for the life of the patient? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

### Billing Information

This medication will be billed: <input type="checkbox"/> at a pharmacy <b>OR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> medically, JCODE: _____
Place of Service: <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Provider's office <input type="checkbox"/> Member's home <input type="checkbox"/> Other

### Place of Service Information

Name:	NPI:
Address:	Phone:

### MEDICAL HISTORY (Complete for ALL requests)

Diagnosis:	ICD Code:
Has the member been evaluated for other causes of anemia? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Is the member currently receiving iron supplementation? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No ➤ If no, provide serum ferritin: _____ ng/mL Transferrin saturation (TSAT): _____ % Date of test: _____	
Is blood pressure adequately controlled? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
What is the member's current hemoglobin level (lab results must be from within 30 days of the request)? Hemoglobin level (g/dL): _____ Date: _____	
Will erythropoietin be held or titrated downward if hemoglobin exceeds the recommended goal? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Has the member required RBC transfusions? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please describe: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No	
For anemia of chronic renal disease: ➤ Is the member currently on dialysis? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
For anemia due to treatment with zidovudine in HIV: ➤ Erythropoietin Level: _____ mUnits/mL Date drawn: _____ ➤ Weekly zidovudine dose: _____ mg/week	
As therapy to reduce the need for allogeneic blood transfusions ➤ Is the member scheduled to undergo elective, noncardiac, nonvascular surgery? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, date: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No	

### CURRENT or PREVIOUS THERAPY

Medication Name	Strength/ Frequency	Dates of Therapy	Status (Discontinued & Why/Current)

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION or CLINICAL RATIONALE

Prescribing Provider Signature		Date