



**BlueCross BlueShield
of Illinois**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois Provider Manual

HMO Scope of Benefits Section

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, a Division of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company,
an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Erythropoietin (EPO)

Benefit

Erythropoietin (EPO) is in benefit.

Interpretation

Erythropoietin is a hormone produced by recombinant technology. It stimulates production of erythrocytes (red blood cells) in specific anemias.

Erythropoietin may be used to treat anemias resulting from:

- Chronic renal failure
- AZT therapy in HIV -infected members (AIDS)
- Chemotherapeutic drugs utilized to treat non-myeloid cancers
- Anemia following allogenic bone marrow transplant
- Myelodysplastic syndromes if a three (3) month trial documents effectiveness in reducing transfusion dependence

Paid by	HMO (if self-injected)
	IPA (if administered in physician office)

Benefit Variation

Benefit Plan DIRPI- Excluded

Note: See related benefits interpretation on Drugs