



**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

Hematopoietic Growth Factors (HGF)

Benefit

Hematopoietic growth factors are in benefit if determined medically necessary by the Primary Care Physician (PCP).

Interpretation

Hematopoietic growth factors are naturally occurring substances produced by all humans. They modulate the development and maturation of white blood cells. A variety of such substances, including those listed below, have been identified:

- Granulocyte Colony Stimulating Factor (G-CSF)
- Granulocyte-Macrophage Colony Stimulating Factor (GM-CSF)
- Macrophage Stimulating Factor (M-CSF)
- Interleukin-3 (IL-3)

FDA-approved hematopoietic growth factors are in benefit unless the member's pharmacy benefit excludes these agents.

These factors may be useful in the, but are not limited to, following clinical situations:

- As a priming agent prior to collection of autologous stem cells when the member is to be treated with high dose chemotherapy (HDC) with a drug known to cause myelosuppression.
- As an adjunct to HDC and autologous stem cell rescue for any malignancy known to respond to such a treatment regimen.
- After any cancer treatment in which autologous or allogenic stem cell rescue has been utilized and engraftment has been delayed.
- In conjunction with treatment utilizing a drug generally known to cause febrile neutropenia or when prior treatment with a drug has caused febrile neutropenia in a specific member and this drug must be utilized again.
- Symptomatic patients with congenital or idiopathic neutropenia.
- Following myelosuppressive chemotherapy for non-myeloid malignancies as a treatment to reduce or prevent the incidence of infection or the duration of neutropenia.

This is not an all-inclusive listing.

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

Benefit Variations

Benefit Plan DIRPI—self-injectable excluded

Some employer groups have limited or no self-injectable drug benefits.

A small percentage of HMO members receive pharmacy benefits from non-BCBSIL vendors and coverage may vary

Note: See related policies on Erythropoietin, Drugs