

# EPOETIN ALPHA/IRON PROTOCOL FOR GENERAL MEDICAL AND GENERAL SURGICAL PATIENTS

## Indications for Use

1) Bone marrow stimulant for those who refuse blood and/or have had a significant acute blood loss (hemoglobin less than 8 Gm/dL without co-morbidities or less than 9 Gm/dL with co-morbidities).

2) Patients who would benefit from accelerated red cell production in order to reduce and/or eliminate the need for blood transfusions.

**Note:** Guidelines are not for renal dosing or some hematological problems.

### Step 1: Consider Assessing for:

Iron deficiency, infection, inflammation, blood loss, malignancy, hematological problems, AIDS, pregnancy, vitamin deficiency, malabsorption, chronic renal insufficiency or failure.

### Step 2: Baseline Lab studies:

CBC, reticulocyte count, iron panel

### Step 3: Ensure adequate iron stores:

Iron saturation less than 20%:

Iron Sucrose 100 mg IV once a day X \_\_\_\_\_ (total maximum dosage 1000mg. or 10 doses)

**OR**

Iron Sucrose 300 mg. IV every other day for three (3) doses.

### Step 4: Oral medications:

- Folic Acid 1 mg. PO daily
- Vitamin C 500 mg. PO daily
- Vitamin B12 1000 mcg. IM X 1 dose.

### Step 5: Epoetin alpha (Epoen/Procrit):

- 10,000 units SQ three (3) times a week until hemoglobin greater than or equal to 10 Gm/dL.
- Bloodless patient hemoglobin less than 5 Gm/dL: 10,000 units subcutaneously every day for five (5) days, then 10,000 units three times a week until hemoglobin is greater than or equal to 10 Gm/ dL.

**Note:** If iron saturation is less than 10% must administer 2 doses of IV iron prior to initiating epoetin alpha.

### Step 6: Monitor and evaluate:

CBC, reticulocyte count 7 days from initiation of treatment

Physician's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

PROHIBITED ABBREVIATION	REQUIRED TERM	PROHIBITED ABBREVIATION	REQUIRED TERM
ug	<b>Write</b> Microgram	1.0	<b>Write</b> 1. Do not use zero after decimal point
qd, q.d.	<b>Write</b> Daily	Zero after decimal point	
qod	<b>Write</b> Every Other Day or Every 48 hrs	MS	<b>Write</b> Morphine
U or u	<b>Write</b> Units	MgSO <sub>4</sub> , MSO <sub>4</sub>	<b>Write</b> Magnesium sulfate or Morphine sulfate
.5	<b>Write</b> 0.5 - make sure you use preceding 0	IU	<b>Write</b> International units
No zero before decimal point		OS, OD, OU	<b>Write</b> Left or right eye or both eyes
		AS, AD, AU	<b>Write</b> Left or right ear or both ears



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