



**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

<b>Paid by</b>	<b>HMO</b> (if self-injected)
	<b>IPA</b> (if administered in physician office)

**Note: See related benefits interpretation on Drugs**