



**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.**

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

## Benefit Variations

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**