

# DOCTORS FOSTER<sup>and</sup>SMITH<sup>®</sup> PHARMACY

## Patient Information Sheet

PO Box 100, Rhinelander, WI 54501  
For questions or to consult with a pharmacist, call 1-800-447-3021

## Erythropoietin

(Epogen, Procrit)

**Common Drug Name**  
Erythropoietin (EPO), Epoetin Alfa

**Common Brand Names**  
Epogen, Procrit

No generic products are available.

**Storage**  
Store in the refrigerator protected from light. Do not shake. Do not freeze.

**Uses**  
Erythropoietin is used in the treatment of anemia due to chronic kidney disease/failure in multiple small animal species including dogs, cats, ferrets, and rabbits.

**Dose and Administration**  
Always follow the dosage instructions provided by your veterinarian. If you have difficulty giving the medication, contact your veterinarian.

Dosage is dependent on response to treatment. May take 3 weeks to see results in dose changes.

Give erythropoietin by injection. Always use a new sterile needle and syringe for each injection and follow the proper technique, as directed by your veterinarian. When finished, place the needle and syringe in a puncture-resistant container. Follow your local regulations regarding disposal.

If you miss a dose, give it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the one you missed and go back to the regular schedule. Do not give 2 doses at once.

This medication should only be given to the pet for whom it was prescribed.

**Possible Side Effects**  
May see high blood pressure, seizures, iron depletion, fever, aching joints, or ulcers in the mouth/lips. Pain and irritation at injection site may be a warning that antibodies are developing. Consult your veterinarian if you notice any of these side effects.

If your pet experiences an allergic reaction to the medication, signs may include facial swelling, hives, scratching, sudden onset of diarrhea, vomiting, shock, seizures, pale gums, cold limbs, or coma. If you observe any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

**Precautions**  
Not for use in animals hypersensitive (allergic) to it.

Not for use in animals with uncontrolled high blood pressure.

Not for use in animals with low iron levels.

Do not use in pregnant or lactating animals (female animals nursing their young).

Avoid use, or use with caution, in animals prone to seizures.

May cause development of antibodies against red blood cells, resulting in a severe anemia and a lifelong dependency on transfusions.

Not recommended for use in animals with only a mild to moderate anemia (packed cell volume in the 20s), because of the risk of side effects, including the development of antibodies. Packed cell volume (PCV, hematocrit) is a measurement of the number of red blood cells in the blood.

Consult with your veterinarian regarding the physical examinations and laboratory testing necessary prior to and during treatment with erythropoietin.

**Drug, Food, and Test Interactions**  
Consult your veterinarian before using erythropoietin before using vitamins and supplements, androgens (male hormones), desmopressin, or probenecid, since interactions may occur.

Oral iron supplements may need to be given.

**Signs of Toxicity/Overdose**  
Acute overdosing is unlikely to cause a problem.

Chronic overdosing may cause too high of a red blood cell count and other related problems.

If you know or suspect your pet has had an overdose, or if you observe any changes in behavior, weakness, or changes in respiration or heart rate, contact your veterinarian immediately.

*Keep this and all other medications out of the reach of children and pets.*