



# Pharmacy Update

Pharmacy Help Desk Phone Numbers (405)522-6205 option 4 or (800)522-0114 option 4  
Service Hours: Monday – Friday (8:30a – 7:00p); Saturday (9:00a – 5:00p); Sunday (11:00a – 5:00p)  
Email: [pharmacy@okhca.org](mailto:pharmacy@okhca.org) OHCA Website: [www.okhca.org](http://www.okhca.org)  
PA Criteria: [www.okhca.org/providers/rx/pa](http://www.okhca.org/providers/rx/pa) PA forms: [www.okhca.org/rx-forms](http://www.okhca.org/rx-forms)

March 16, 2012

## Erythropoietin Stimulating Agents (ESAs) Prior Authorization

Prior authorization criteria for the erythropoietin stimulating agents (ESAs) Aranesp<sup>®</sup>, Epogen<sup>®</sup>, and Procrit<sup>®</sup> to conform to new product labeling approved by the FDA. The new criteria will go into effect on April 1, 2012.

Changes to the criteria include:

### Continuation Criteria:

- Continue dose if Hb is  $\leq$  11.0 g/dL.
- If Hb is increasing and approaching 11.0 g/dL then reduce dose.
- If more than 1 g/dL increase (but Hb not greater than upper limits listed below) has occurred in a 2 week period reduce dose by 25 to 50 %.

### Discontinuation Criteria:

- ESRD – Discontinue treatment if Hb is at or above 11.0 g/dL.
- All others – Discontinue treatment if Hb is at or above 11.0 g/dL.
- If a minimum increase of 1 g/dL has not been achieved after initial 8 weeks of therapy for anemia associated with chemotherapy and 12 weeks of therapy for ESRD.

The full ESA prior authorization criteria can be found at [www.okhca.org/providers/rx/pa](http://www.okhca.org/providers/rx/pa).

Please continue to use prior authorization form PHARM-17 for all ESA requests. It can be downloaded at [www.okhca.org/providers/forms](http://www.okhca.org/providers/forms).

All ESA prior authorizations for pharmacy **and** medical claims will continue to be handled through the Pharmacy Prior Authorization Unit. Please use the fax numbers listed on the bottom of the PA form.

**We appreciate the services you provide to Oklahomans insured by SoonerCare.**