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Clinical Guideline

Oscar Clinical Guideline: Injectable Iron Supplements (PG196, Ver. 3)

Injectable Iron Supplements

- Feraheme (ferumoxytol)
- Ferrlecit (sodium ferric gluconate complex in sucrose)
- INFeD (iron dextran complex)
- Injectafer (ferric carboxymaltose)
- Venofer (iron sucrose)
- Monoferric (ferric derisomaltose)

Summary

Iron deficiency anemia is a condition characterized by insufficient iron levels in the body, resulting in decreased production of healthy red blood cells. Iron is crucial for the synthesis of hemoglobin, a protein responsible for transporting oxygen to tissues. Symptoms of iron deficiency anemia include fatigue, weakness, pale skin, shortness of breath, dizziness, and cold hands and feet.

Causes of iron deficiency anemia include inadequate dietary iron intake, poor iron absorption, increased iron requirements (e.g., during pregnancy), and chronic blood loss. Treatment typically involves oral iron supplementation to replenish iron stores. In severe cases or when oral supplements are ineffective, injectable iron or blood transfusions may be necessary. Injectable iron supplements, including sodium ferric gluconate, ferric carboxymaltose, ferumoxytol, iron dextran, and ferric derisomaltose, are used to treat iron deficiency anemia (IDA) in patients who cannot tolerate or have an inadequate response to oral iron therapy. Additionally, certain injectable iron supplements may also be used to treat iron deficiency in heart failure with reduced ejection fraction or restless legs syndrome (RLS) with moderate to severe symptoms and low iron levels.

NOTE: The Plan also has a Medical Benefit Preferred Physician-Administered Drug Exceptions Criteria policy (Clinical Guideline CG107) that outlines the preferred and non-preferred injectable iron products, and the exception criteria required for coverage of non-preferred products.

Definitions

"**Anemia**" refers to a condition in which the body lacks sufficient healthy red blood cells to carry adequate oxygen to the body's tissues. It can be caused by various factors, including iron deficiency.

"**Chronic kidney disease**" is a condition characterized by gradual loss of kidney function over time.

"**Erythropoiesis-stimulating agents (ESAs)**" are medications that stimulate the bone marrow to produce more red blood cells. They are sometimes used in conjunction with iron therapy to treat anemia in certain conditions, such as chronic kidney disease.

"**Hemoglobin**" refers to a protein responsible for transporting oxygen to tissues.

"**Iron deficiency anemia (IDA)**" refers to a condition characterized by insufficient iron levels in the body, resulting in decreased production of healthy red blood cells.

"**Iron overload**" or "**hemochromatosis**" refers to a condition characterized by excessive iron accumulation in the body.

"**Malabsorption condition**" refers to a condition that prevents adequate absorption of nutrients, including iron, from the intestines (e.g., inflammatory bowel disease, celiac disease, bariatric surgery).

"**Menorrhagia**" refers to abnormally heavy or prolonged menstrual bleeding, which can lead to iron deficiency anemia.

"**Oral iron supplementation**" refers to the use of iron supplements taken by mouth, usually in the form of tablets, capsules, or liquid preparations.

"**Parenteral iron**" or "**injectable iron**" refers to iron supplementation administered through intravenous (IV) or intramuscular (IM) routes.

"**Restless legs syndrome (RLS)**" or "**Willis-Ekbom disease**" is a neurological disorder characterized by an uncontrollable urge to move the legs, often accompanied by uncomfortable sensations. It can be associated with iron deficiency in some cases.

"**Serum ferritin**" is a laboratory test that measures the amount of iron stored in the body.

"**Transferrin saturation (TSAT)**" refers to a laboratory test that measures the percentage of transferrin (a protein that transports iron) that is saturated with iron.

Medical Necessity Criteria for Initial Authorization

Iron Deficiency Anemia (IDA) or Iron Deficiency Without Anemia

The Plan considers **injectable iron supplements** medically necessary when **ALL** of the following criteria are met:

1. The member has a diagnosis of iron deficiency anemia (IDA) **OR** iron deficiency without anemia confirmed by recent (within the last 90 days) laboratory results showing:
    a. **ONE** of the following:
        i. Hemoglobin less than 12.5 g/dL in females; ***or***
        ii. Hemoglobin less than 13.5 g/dL in males; ***or***
        iii. Evidence of symptomatic iron deficiency without anemia (e.g., fatigue, weakness, shortness of breath, pica); ***and***
    b. **ONE** of the following:
        i. Serum ferritin less than (≤) 30 ng/mL; ***or***
        ii. Serum ferritin ≤ 100 ng/mL with transferrin saturation (TSAT) ≤ 20%; ***or***
        iii. For iron deficiency in the presence of inflammatory conditions (*acute or chronic*), malignancy, or other complicating factors (*e.g., recent blood transfusion or IV iron administration within 4-6 weeks*), **ANY** of the following:

1. serum ferritin ≤ 100 ng/mL, regardless of TSAT; ***or***
2. serum ferritin 100-300 ng/mL with TSAT < 20% and **ONE** of the following:
    a. elevated inflammatory markers (e.g., C-reactive protein, ESR); ***or***
    b. Presence of a chronic inflammatory condition (e.g., RA, IBD); ***or***
    c. Presence of a malignancy; ***or***
    d. Clinical signs and symptoms strongly suggestive of iron deficiency; ***or***
3. Clinical evidence of iron deficiency in the context of a condition known to elevate ferritin (e.g., alcohol-related liver disease, anemia of chronic disease) or affect TSAT (e.g., recent transfusion or IV iron administration within 12-weeks); ***or***

iv. TSAT < 20% in the presence of condition(s) affecting iron utilization or metabolism, such as:
1. CKD stages 3-5 or ESRD on dialysis; ***or***
2. Use of ESAs for anemia related to CKD or cancer; ***or***
3. Chronic inflammation with ferritin levels > 300 ng/mL; ***AND***

2. The member has one or more of the following clinical scenarios:
    a. Chronic kidney disease (with or without hemodialysis); ***or***
    b. Documented intolerance, contraindication, or inadequate response after a 1-month trial of oral iron therapy taken at least every other day; ***or***
    c. **ANY** condition requiring rapid iron repletion, such as:
        i. Severe anemia (Hb < 8 g/dL) **OR** requiring blood transfusions; ***or***
        ii. Anticipated excessive blood loss from planned surgery; ***or***
        iii. Severe menorrhagia/abnormal uterine bleeding; ***or***
        iv. Second or third trimester pregnancy with hemoglobin <10.5 g/dL; ***or***
        v. Chemotherapy-induced iron deficiency without response to oral iron trial; ***or***
    d. Malabsorption condition likely to prevent adequate oral iron absorption (e.g. inflammatory bowel disease, celiac disease, autoimmune gastritis, bariatric surgery); ***AND***
3. The member does **NOT** have evidence of ANY of the following:
    a. Serum ferritin levels greater than 300 ng/mL **OR** TSAT greater than 50% (unless explained by comorbid condition); ***or***
    b. History of hypersensitivity to the requested iron product or any component of the formulation; ***AND***

4. The requested product is being prescribed at a dose and frequency that is within FDA approved labeling **OR** is supported by compendia or evidence-based published dosing guidelines for the requested indication.

Iron Deficiency in Heart Failure

The Plan considers **Injectafer (ferric carboxymaltose)** medically necessary when **ALL** of the following criteria are met:

1. The member is 18 years of age or older; ***AND***
2. The member has a diagnosis of iron deficiency **AND** documentation of **ALL** of the following:
    a. Heart failure with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF), defined as left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) ≤ 45%; ***and***
    b. Recent (within the last 90 days) serum ferritin < 100 ng/mL or 100-300 ng/mL with TSAT < 20%; ***AND***
3. The member does **NOT** have evidence of **ANY** of the following:
    a. Hemoglobin >15 g/dL; ***or***
    b. Serum ferritin levels greater than 300 ng/mL; ***or***
    c. TSAT greater than 45%; ***or***
    d. History of hypersensitivity to ferric carboxymaltose or any of its components; ***AND***
4. Injectafer is being prescribed at a dose and frequency that is within FDA approved labeling **OR** is supported by compendia or evidence-based published dosing guidelines for the requested indication.

Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS)/Willis-Ekbom Disease

The Plan considers **INFeD (iron dextran complex) or Injectafer (ferric carboxymaltose)** medically necessary when **ALL** of the following criteria are met:

1. The member is 18 years of age or older; ***AND***
2. The member has a diagnosis of RLS with:
    a. Moderate to severe symptoms; ***and***
    b. Recent (within the last 90 days) serum ferritin ≤ 100 mcg/L with TSAT < 45%; ***AND***
3. The member has documented intolerance, contraindication, or inadequate response after a 1-month trial of oral iron supplementation; ***AND***
4. The member does **NOT** have evidence of **ANY** of the following:
    a. Serum ferritin levels greater than 300 ng/mL; ***or***
    b. TSAT greater than 45%; ***or***
    c. History of hypersensitivity to the requested iron product or any of its components; ***AND***

5. The requested product is being prescribed at a dose and frequency that is within FDA approved labeling **OR** is supported by compendia or evidence-based published dosing guidelines for RLS.

If the above prior authorization criteria are met, the requested product will be authorized for up to 90-days.

Medical Necessity Criteria for Reauthorization

Iron deficiency anemia (IDA) or Iron Deficiency Without Anemia

Reauthorization for up to 3-months will be granted if the member has recent (within the last 30-days) clinical chart documentation demonstrating **ALL** of the following criteria:

1. The member continues to meet Initial Authorization criteria and requires additional iron repletion; ***AND***
2. Documentation of clinical response from prior iron treatment, as evidenced by one or more of the following:
    a. Improved hemoglobin ≥ 1-2 g/dL or hematocrit ≥ 3-6% from baseline; ***and/or***
    b. Improvement in iron deficiency signs/symptoms (e.g. fatigue, weakness, shortness of breath, pica); ***and/or***
    c. Reduced ESA dose or transfusion requirements; ***AND***
3. Current serum ferritin ≤ 300 ng/mL and TSAT ≤ 50% (unless adequately explained by concomitant condition); ***AND***
4. There is no evidence of serious toxicity or hypersensitivity from the drug.

Iron Deficiency in Heart Failure

Reauthorization for up to 3-months will be granted if the member has recent (within the last 30-days) clinical chart documentation demonstrating ALL of the following criteria:

1. The member continues to meet Initial Authorization criteria; ***AND***
2. Documentation of clinical response from prior iron treatment, as evidenced by one or more of the following:
    a. Improvement in heart failure symptoms or functional capacity; ***and/or***
    b. Reduced hospitalizations for heart failure; ***AND***
3. Current serum ferritin < 100 ng/mL or 100-300 ng/mL with TSAT < 20%; ***AND***
4. There is no evidence of serious toxicity or hypersensitivity from the drug.

Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS)/Willis-Ekbom Disease

Reauthorization for up to 3-months will be granted if the member has recent (within the last 30-days) clinical chart documentation demonstrating ALL of the following criteria:

1. The member continues to meet **Initial Authorization** criteria and has persistent RLS symptoms requiring additional iron repletion; ***AND***
2. Documentation of clinical response from prior iron treatment, as evidenced by improvement in RLS symptom severity or frequency; AND
3. Current serum ferritin ≤ 100 mcg/L with TSAT < 45%; ***AND***
4. There is no evidence of serious toxicity or hypersensitivity from the drug.

Experimental or Investigational / Not Medically Necessary

Injectable Iron Supplements for any indication or use not listed in the **Medical Necessity Criteria** above are considered experimental, investigational, or not medically necessary by the Plan. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Acute mountain sickness.
- Non-anemic conditions:
    - To improve exercise performance or functional capacity in non-iron deficient individuals.
    - For prophylactic use prior to orthopedic or other surgical procedures in non-iron deficient patients.
- Any other indication not supported by major compendia or evidence-based clinical practice guidelines.

The use of injectable iron is considered not medically necessary in the following circumstances:

- Documented iron overload or hemochromatosis.
- Serum ferritin levels > 500 ng/mL, unless adequately explained by a concomitant condition.
- TSAT > 50%, unless adequately explained by a concomitant condition.
- Pre-operative use solely to reduce/avoid transfusion needs for non-anemic, non-iron deficient surgical patients, including those with belief systems that preclude the use of blood transfusions.
- Continued use when there is no evidence of clinical response after an adequate trial of injectable iron therapy.

Applicable Billing Codes (HCPCS/CPT Codes)

CPT/HCPCS Codes considered medically necessary if criteria are met:	
Code	*Description*
J1437	Monoferric Injection, ferric derisomaltose, 10 mg
J1439	Injectafer Injection, ferric carboxymaltose, 1 mg
J1750	Infed Injection, iron dextran, 50 mg
J1756	Venofer Injection, iron sucrose, 1 mg
J2916	Ferrlecit Injection, sodium ferric gluconate complex in sucrose injection, 12.5 mg
Q0138	Feraheme Injection, ferumoxytol, for treatment of iron deficiency anemia, 1 mg (non-esrd use)
Q0139	Feraheme Injection, ferumoxytol, for treatment of iron deficiency anemia, 1 mg (for esrd on dialysis)
ICD-10 codes considered medically necessary if criteria are met:	
Code	*Description*
D50.0	Iron deficiency anemia secondary to blood loss (chronic)
D50.1	Sideropenic dysphagia
D50.8	Other iron deficiency anemias
D50.9	Iron deficiency anemia, unspecified
D55.21	Anemia due to pyruvate kinase deficiency
D55.29	Anemia due to other disorders of glycolytic enzymes
D59.10	Autoimmune hemolytic anemia, unspecified
D59.11	Warm autoimmune hemolytic anemia
D59.12	Cold autoimmune hemolytic anemia

D59.13	Mixed type autoimmune hemolytic anemia
D59.19	Other autoimmune hemolytic anemia
D62	Acute posthemorrhagic anemia
D63.0	Anemia in neoplastic disease
D63.1	Anemia in chronic kidney disease
D63.8	Anemia in other chronic diseases classified elsewhere
D64.81	Anemia due to antineoplastic chemotherapy
D64.89	Other specified anemias
D64.9	Anemia, unspecified
G25.81	Restless legs syndrome
K50.0	Crohn's disease of small intestine
K50.00	Crohn's disease of small intestine without complications
K50.01	Crohn's disease of small intestine with complications
K50.011	Crohn's disease of small intestine with rectal bleeding
K50.012	Crohn's disease of small intestine with intestinal obstruction
K50.013	Crohn's disease of small intestine with fistula
K50.014	Crohn's disease of small intestine with abscess
K50.018	Crohn's disease of small intestine with other complication
K50.019	Crohn's disease of small intestine with unspecified complications
K50.1	Crohn's disease of large intestine
K50.10	Crohn's disease of large intestine without complications
K50.11	Crohn's disease of large intestine with complications
K50.111	Crohn's disease of large intestine with rectal bleeding
K50.112	Crohn's disease of large intestine with intestinal obstruction
K50.113	Crohn's disease of large intestine with fistula
K50.114	Crohn's disease of large intestine with abscess
K50.118	Crohn's disease of large intestine with other complication
K50.119	Crohn's disease of large intestine with unspecified complications
K50.8	Crohn's disease of both small and large intestine

K50.80	Crohn's disease of both small and large intestine without complications
K50.81	Crohn's disease of both small and large intestine with complications
K50.811	Crohn's disease of both small and large intestine with rectal bleeding
K50.812	Crohn's disease of both small and large intestine with intestinal obstruction
K50.813	Crohn's disease of both small and large intestine with fistula
K50.814	Crohn's disease of both small and large intestine with abscess
K50.818	Crohn's disease of both small and large intestine with other complication
K50.819	Crohn's disease of both small and large intestine with unspecified complications
K50.9	Crohn's disease, unspecified
K50.90	Crohn's disease, unspecified, without complications
K50.91	Crohn's disease, unspecified, with complications
K50.911	Crohn's disease, unspecified, with rectal bleeding
K50.912	Crohn's disease, unspecified, with intestinal obstruction
K50.913	Crohn's disease, unspecified, with fistula
K50.914	Crohn's disease, unspecified, with abscess
K50.918	Crohn's disease, unspecified, with other complication
K50.919	Crohn's disease, unspecified, with unspecified complications
K90.0	Celiac disease
K90.1	Tropical sprue
K90.2	Blind loop syndrome, not elsewhere classified
K90.3	Pancreatic steatorrhea
K90.4	Other malabsorption due to intolerance
K90.41	Non-celiac gluten sensitivity
K90.49	Malabsorption due to intolerance, not elsewhere classified
K90.8	Other intestinal malabsorption
K90.81	Whipple's disease
K90.82	Short bowel syndrome
K90.821	Short bowel syndrome with colon in continuity
K90.822	Short bowel syndrome without colon in continuity

K90.829	Short bowel syndrome, unspecified
K90.83	Intestinal failure
K90.89	Other intestinal malabsorption
K90.9	Intestinal malabsorption, unspecified
N18.1	Chronic kidney disease, stage 1
N18.2	Chronic kidney disease, stage 2 (mild)
N18.3	Chronic kidney disease, stage 3 (moderate)
N18.30	Chronic kidney disease, stage 3 unspecified
N18.31	Chronic kidney disease, stage 3a
N18.32	Chronic kidney disease, stage 3b
N18.4	Chronic kidney disease, stage 4 (severe)
N18.5	Chronic kidney disease, stage 5
N18.6	End stage renal disease
O99.01	Anemia complicating pregnancy
O99.011	Anemia complicating pregnancy, first trimester
O99.012	Anemia complicating pregnancy, second trimester
O99.013	Anemia complicating pregnancy, third trimester
O99.019	Anemia complicating pregnancy, unspecified trimester
P61.2	Anemia of prematurity
T88.8XXA	Oth complications of surgical and medical care, NEC, init
T88.8XXD	Oth complications of surgical and medical care, NEC, subs

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Clinical Guideline Revision / History Information

Original Date: 4/26/2024 Reviewed/Revised: 8/29/2024, 12/02/2024