



Epoetin alfa (Procrit®)

("e-POE-etin AL-fa")

How this drug is given: By injection

Purpose: Epoetin is a protein that is made naturally in the body. It helps increase red blood cells in the body so that the side effects of anemia are less.

Things that may occur during treatment

- 1) Your blood pressure may go up. If this happens, you may be given medication to help with this. If you have headaches or dizziness, tell your cancer care team right away.
- 2) Skin changes, such as itching or a rash on your body, may occur. Ask your care team what lotions or creams you may use.
- 3) Some patients may have nausea or vomiting. You may be given medicine to help with this.
- 4) If you develop a new or worsening cough or shortness of breath, tell your care team.
- 5) You are at increased risk of blood clots. If you have pain, swelling and/or warmth in one leg, or if you develop sudden shortness of breath, tell your care team right away.
- 6) Fertility and Related Precautions:
 - a. It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug may be harmful to an unborn baby.
 - b. Women should not breastfeed while receiving this drug.

If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your care team.

The above information includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects in this teaching sheet may not be the same ones you experience. Your side effects may be different, depending on how often you receive treatment (your schedule) and how much you receive each time (your dosage). Side effects may also vary if you take other medications. Please talk with your care team if you have questions about possible side effects you may experience. This document should not take the place of conversations with members of your care team. If you experience any significant change in your health during or after treatment, contact a member of your care team right away.