

# Methoxy polyethylene glycol-epoetin beta (Mircera<sup>®</sup>) Protocol

## **Methoxy polyethylene glycol (PEG)-epoetin beta (Mircera<sup>®</sup>)**

ICD-10 code D63.1 – Anemia in chronic kidney disease

**Purpose:** To provide optimal management of ESRD-related anemia in dialysis patients

**Hemoglobin Target Goal:** 10.0-11.0 g/dL

### **Methoxy polyethylene glycol-epoetin beta Dosing:**

Doses are based on estimated dry weight and rounded to the following steps:

Step	Dose
1	30 mcg every <i>four</i> weeks
2	50 mcg every <i>four</i> weeks
3	30 mcg every two weeks
4	50 mcg every two weeks
5	60 mcg every two weeks (30 mcg + 30 mcg)
6	75 mcg every two weeks
7	100 mcg every two weeks
8	150 mcg every two weeks
9	200 mcg every two weeks

**Table 1**

1. Methoxy polyethylene glycol-epoetin (Mircera<sup>®</sup>) will be increased and decreased in 1-step or 2-step increments, based on scale above.
2. Mircera<sup>®</sup> will be administered IV to in-center hemodialysis patients, and SQ to home dialysis patients.
3. Mircera<sup>®</sup> ceiling is 200 mcg every two weeks (or 3.0 mcg/kg every 2 weeks, whichever is lower). Orders above 200mcg every two weeks require facility medical director or CMO approval.
4. For in-center hemodialysis patients, if pre-dialysis systolic blood pressure is >190 mm Hg, do not administer Mircera<sup>®</sup> at the beginning of treatment. If systolic blood pressure falls to <190 mm Hg during hemodialysis, administer Mircera<sup>®</sup> during treatment. If Mircera<sup>®</sup> is held for the entire hemodialysis session due to persistent systolic blood pressure >190 mm Hg, notify nephrologist and reassess for administration of Mircera<sup>®</sup> dose at next hemodialysis session.

### **Initiating Mircera<sup>®</sup> for new patients or ESA naïve patients**

For new patients or established patients who have not received an ESA within the last 3 months, initiate as follows:

1. Iron repletion per iron standing orders
2. AND

**Patient Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **NKC#** \_\_\_\_\_

- a. If Hgb < 10 g/dL, then start Mircera® at 0.6 mcg/kg every 2 weeks, and round down to closest step per Table 1 but no less than 30 mcg every 2 weeks (Step 3).
- b. If Hgb 10.0-10.4 g/dL, then start Mircera® at 30 mcg every 2 weeks (Step 3).
- c. If Hgb ≥ 10.5 g/dL, then do not start Mircera® until Hgb falls to <10.5 g/dL

### **Mircera® Dosing Adjustment**

1. Titrate Mircera® per the following table for patients who have a Mircera® order and had not been changed in the last 4 weeks:

<b><u>Mircera® Dosing Adjustment</u></b>	
<b>Hgb decreased by greater than or equal to 0.5 g/dL since last dose change</b>	
<b>Current Hgb (g/dL)</b>	<b>Step Dose Change</b>
Less than 10	2 step dose increase
10.0-10.9	1 step dose increase
11-11.9	No Change
<b>Hgb increased/decreased by less than 0.5 g/dL since last dose change</b>	
<b>Current Hgb (g/dL)</b>	<b>Step Dose Change</b>
Less than 9.5	2 step dose increase
9.5-9.9	1 step dose increase
10.0-10.4	If Hgb decreased, do 1 step dose increase. If Hgb increased or stayed the same do NOT change
10.5-11.4	No change
11.5-11.9	1 step dose decrease; if patient is on Step 1, do not HOLD
<b>Hgb increased greater than or equal to 0.5 g/dL since last dose change</b>	
<b>Current Hgb (g/dL)</b>	<b>Step Dose Change</b>
Less than 10	1 step dose increase
10-10.4	No Change
10.5-11.9	1 step decrease; if patient is on Step 1, do not HOLD
<b>Current Hgb (g/dL)</b>	<b>Dose Change</b>
<b>Greater than or equal to 12 g/dL</b>	Hold Mircera; check Hgb at next redraw for home dialysis patients, and every week for in-center patients.
<b>If Hgb is increased or decreased at least 1.0 g/dl since the last Hgb level; recheck Hgb within next 2 dialysis treatments for in-center HD and at next redraw for home patients.</b> Follow the algorithm based on the results of the recheck, e.g., if the value remains the same as the first draw, then follow the algorithm for no change. If redraw indicates a further drop by at least 1.0 g/dL, contact nephrologist for orders.	

**Table 2**

2. Do not change Mircera® dose more frequently than every 4 weeks EXCEPT:
  - a. If Hgb falls from above 10 g/dL to less than 10 g/dL, increase dose after 2 weeks.
  - b. If Hgb is already less than 10 g/dL and drops greater than 0.5 g/dL, increase dose after 2 weeks.
  - c. If Hgb ≥ 12 g/dL, hold Mircera® and check Hgb every week for in- center patients, and at next redraw for home dialysis patients. Resume Mircera®

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with 1-step decrease as soon as Hgb is < 11.8 g/dL and last dose was administered 2 weeks ago or more. If Hgb remains  $\geq 12$  g/dL for more than 2 months, return to regular Hgb testing policy.

3. Post hospitalization: check Hgb at the first treatment after hospitalization and pre-hospitalization dose will be administered if patient is due for Mircera. When Hgb is back, then titrate Mircera as needed per Table 2.

### **Conversion from darbepoetin or erythropoietin to Mircera®**

1. When a patient with a darbepoetin (Aranesp) or erythropoietin orderswitches to Mircera®, discontinue darbepoetin (Aranesp) or erythropoietin order.
2. Convert darbepoetin or erythropoietin to appropriate dose of Mircera®, per conversion dose chart below. Convert to Mircera® when the next ESA dose is due.
3. If ESA is on HOLD from another protocol, wait until Hgb is less than 11.8g/dl, then convert ESA as follows: See Table 3 or 4 to convert previous ESA dosing to Mircera® Step, then see Table 1 and decrease 1 Step.

<b>Erythropoietin to Methoxy Polyethylene Glycol Epoetin-beta Conversion Dose Chart</b>		
Epogen Dose (U) per week - total	Mircera® Dose	
	Dose (mcg)	Frequency
< 2000	30	Every 4 weeks
2000 - < 3000	50	Every 4 weeks
3000 - < 5000	30	Every 2 weeks
5000 - < 8000	50	Every 2 weeks
8000 - < 11,000	60	Every 2 weeks
11,000 - < 18,000	75	Every 2 weeks
18,000 - < 27,000	100	Every 2 weeks
27,000 - < 42,000	150	Every 2 weeks
$\geq 42,000$	200	Every 2 weeks

**Table 3**

<b>Darbepoetin (Aranesp) to Methoxy Polyethylene Glycol Epoetin-beta Conversion Dose Chart</b>		
Darbepoetin Dose (mcg) per week - total	Mircera® Dose	
	Dose (mcg)	Frequency
< 10	50	Every 4 weeks
10 - <20	30	Every 2 weeks
20 - <30	50	Every 2 weeks
30 - < 40	60	Every 2 weeks
40 - < 50	75	Every 2 weeks
50 - < 60	100	Every 2 weeks
60 - < 100	150	Every 2 weeks
$\geq 100$	200	Every 2 weeks

**Table 4**

**Labs:** Draw CBC per routine lab orders.

**Patient Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **NKC#** \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew Rivara, MD  
Physician Name (Please Print)

Matthew Rivara

Physician signature

January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025  
Date

**Patient Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **NKC#** \_\_\_\_\_