



## NEONATAL MEDICATION PROTOCOLS

**ERYTHROPOIETIN (Epoetin alfa)**  
 Created by: NCCU  
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NCCU Clinical Guidelines  
 KEMH/PMH  
 Perth, Western Australia

<b>DRUG:</b>	<b>ERYTHROPOIETIN (Epoetin alfa)</b>
<b>PRESENTATION:</b>	Prefilled syringes: varying strengths
<b>ACTION &amp; INDICATION:</b>	Stimulates erythropoiesis Decreases the need for blood transfusions in pre-term infants Anaemia of prematurity
<b>DOSE:</b>	200 units/kg on alternate days <b>OR</b> 100 units kg/daily Use for 2 to 6 weeks Supplement with: Ferrous sulphate mixture 0.5mL/kg/day initially 1mL/kg/day at full feeds Multivitamins Folic acid 100 microgram daily Vitamin E 10-15 units daily
<b>PREPARATION:</b>	Use syringe prepackaged for individual patient use.
<b>ADMINISTRATION:</b>	Intravenous: over 3-5 minutes Subcutaneous: As per NCCU policy
<b>ADVERSE EFFECTS:</b>	Neutropenia Hypertension Cutaneous rashes Seizures
<b>COMMENTS:</b>	Monitor (at start of treatment and then weekly): Full blood count with differential, reticulocyte count and platelet count. Cease treatment if granulocyte count < 1000 or haematocrit >45. Protect from light
<b>REFERENCES:</b>	Paediatric Pharmacopoeia 13 <sup>th</sup> Ed Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne Neofax 2012
<b>DATE:</b>	August 2013