



California
Department of
Health Services

SANDRA SHEWRY
Director

State of California-Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

September 16, 2005

N.L.: 23-0905

Index: Drugs

(Supercedes N.L.:27-0989, 01-0192,
12-0393, 20-0895, and 15-0892)

TO: ALL COUNTY CALIFORNIA CHILDREN'S SERVICES (CCS)
ADMINISTRATORS, MEDICAL CONSULTANTS, STATE CHILDREN'S
MEDICAL SERVICES (CMS) BRANCH STAFF, REGIONAL OFFICE
STAFF, AND GENETICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSON'S (GHPP)
PROGRAM STAFF

SUBJECT: EPOETIN ALFA AND CARNITINE REMOVED FROM "TABLE OF
DRUGS REQUIRING SEPARATE AUTHORIZATION"

The purpose of this numbered letter is to advise you that Epoetin Alfa (Epogen™, Procrit™) and Levocarnitine (Carnitine) have been removed from the "Table of Drugs Requiring Separate Authorization."

BACKGROUND

The vast majority of FDA approved drugs are included in the physician Service Code Grouping (SCG) or can be dispensed by a pharmacy with a physician's authorization, and do not require prior authorization. In the history of the CCS program, a few drugs have been identified as requiring separate authorization. Most of these drugs are either addressed with a specific Numbered Letter or are blood factor products. Policy regarding the authorization of Epoetin Alfa and Carnitine have not been reviewed for ten or more years. Review of these drugs at this time do not evoke any concerns that would require them to be separately authorized, so they have been removed from the table of drugs requiring separate authorization.

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POLICY

Effective the date of this Letter, Epoetin Alfa (Epogen™, Procrit™) and Levocarnitine (Carnitine) no longer require separate authorization. The current table of drugs requiring separate authorization is in the Medi-Cal Manual on page 6 at the following web address: http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/publications/masters-MTP/Part2/calchildsar_m00i00o03o04o07o09o11a02a04a05a06a07a08p00v00.doc.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Please note that though you will continue to see Epoetin Alfa and Carnitine on the CMS Net web formulary for a few more months, these drugs have been end-dated and pharmacies are currently able to dispense these drugs without a separate authorization. There will be no problem with SARs already in the system or legacy authorizations for these drugs. Please take no action with regard to existing SARs or legacy authorizations. They should be allowed to remain in effect until they expire.

If you have any questions about this numbered letter, please contact your CMS Regional Office Medical Consultant.

Original signed by Marian Dalsey, M.D., M.P.H.

Marian Dalsey, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Chief
Children's Medical Services Branch