

Clinical Policy: Ferumoxytol (Feraheme)

Reference Number: LA.PHAR.165

Effective Date: 06.08.22

Last Review Date: ~~01.23.26~~04.25.25

Line of Business: Medicaid

[Coding Implications](#)
[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

****Please note: This policy is for medical benefit****

Description

Ferumoxytol (Feraheme®) injection is an iron replacement product.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Feraheme is indicated for the treatment of iron deficiency anemia (IDA) in adult patients

- who have intolerance to oral iron or have had unsatisfactory response to oral iron;
- who have chronic kidney disease (CKD).

Commented [NMN1]: no age considerations for redirections since technically Feraheme is only indicated in adults

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (including such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of Louisiana Healthcare Connections that Feraheme and ferumoxytol are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Iron Deficiency Anemia associated with Chronic Kidney Disease (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of IDA and CKD;
2. IDA is confirmed by either of the following:
 - a. Transferrin saturation (TSAT) ≤ 30%;
 - b. Serum ferritin ≤ 500 ng/mL;
3. If CKD does not require hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis, oral iron therapy is not optimal due to any of the following:
 - a. TSAT < 12%;
 - b. Hgb < 7 g/dL;
 - c. Symptomatic anemia;
 - d. Severe or ongoing blood loss;
 - e. Oral iron intolerance;
 - f. Unable to achieve therapeutic targets with oral iron;
 - g. Co-existing condition that may be refractory to oral iron therapy;
4. Failure of both of the following agents: Ferrlecit® and [iron sucrose \(generic\)](#) [Venofer®](#), unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or both are contraindicated;

Commented [MAT2]: Indications/ criteria:

- Ferrlecit (age 6 or older):
 - o treatment of iron deficiency anemia in adult patients and in pediatric patients age 6 years and older with CKD receiving hemodialysis who are receiving supplemental epoetin therapy
 - o Criteria:
 - iron deficiency anemia associated with CKD
 - iron deficiency anemia w/o CKD
- infed (age 4 months and older):
 - o treatment of adult and pediatric patients of age 4 months and older with documented iron deficiency who have intolerance to oral iron or have an unsatisfactory response to oral iron
- venofer:
 - o iron replacement product indicated for the treatment of iron deficiency anemia in patients with CKD
 - o criteria:
 - iron deficiency anemia associated with CKD
 - iron deficiency anemia w/o CKD (off-label)

CLINICAL POLICY
Ferumoxytol

5. If request is for Feraheme, member must use generic ferumoxytol, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
6. Dose does not exceed 510 mg elemental iron per infusion/injection.

Approval duration: 312 months

B. Iron Deficiency Anemia without Chronic Kidney Disease (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of IDA confirmed by any of the following:
 - a. Serum ferritin < 15 ng/mL or < 30 ng/mL if pregnant;
 - b. Serum ferritin ≤ 41 ng/mL and Hgb < 12 g/dL (women)/< 13 g/dL (men);
 - c. TSAT < 20%;
 - d. Absence of stainable iron in bone marrow;
 - e. Increased soluble transferrin receptor (sTfR) or sTfR-ferritin index;
 - f. Increased erythrocyte protoporphyrin level;
2. Oral iron therapy is not optimal due to any of the following:
 - a. TSAT < 12%;
 - b. Hgb < 7 g/dL;
 - c. Symptomatic anemia;
 - d. Severe or ongoing blood loss;
 - e. Oral iron intolerance;
 - f. Unable to achieve therapeutic targets with oral iron;
 - g. Co-existing condition that may be refractory to oral iron therapy;
3. At the time of the request, member does not have CKD;
4. Failure of two of the following agents, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated: Ferrlecit, Infed®, or iron sucrose (generic Venofer®);
5. If request is for Feraheme, member must use generic ferumoxytol, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
6. Dose does not exceed 510 mg elemental iron per infusion/injection.

Approval duration 3 months

C. Management of Cancer- and Chemotherapy-Induced Anemia (off-label) (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of iron deficiency, with one of the following iron statuses (a, b, or c):
 - a. Absolute iron deficiency confirmed by both (i and ii):
 - i. Serum ferritin < 30 ng/mL;
 - ii. TSAT < 20%;
 - b. Possible functional iron deficiency confirmed by both (i and ii):
 - i. Serum ferritin 500-800 ng/mL;
 - ii. TSAT < 50%;
 - c. Functional iron deficiency with (i, ii, and iii):
 - i. Serum ferritin 30-500 ng/mL;
 - ii. TSAT < 50%;
 - iii. An erythropoietin-stimulating agent (e.g., Epogen®, Procrit®, Aranesp®, Retacrit®) prescribed in combination;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an oncologist;

Commented [MAT3]: Our Ferrlecit and Venofer policies allow off-label IDA w/o CKD use, so allowed redirection here

Commented [NMN4R3]: I agree with this approach, but if we get pushback by redirecting to off-label products we may need to remove redirection

CLINICAL POLICY

Ferumoxytol

3. Member is prescribed chemotherapy for cancer;
4. Failure of two of the following agents, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated: Ferrlecit, Infed, or ~~Venofer~~; iron sucrose (generic Venofer);

5. If request is for Feraheme, member must use generic ferumoxytol, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
6. Dose is within FDA maximum limit for any FDA-approved indication or is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (*prescriber must submit supporting evidence*).*

*Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN

Approval duration ~~3~~12 months

D. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to LA.PMN.255
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy refer to LA.PMN.53

II. Continued Therapy

A. Iron Deficiency Anemia with Chronic Kidney Disease (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Louisiana Healthcare Connections benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
2. Documentation of one of the following laboratory results measured since the last IV iron administration:
 - a. TSAT \leq 30%;
 - b. Serum ferritin \leq 500 ng/mL;
3. Failure of both of the following agents: Ferrlecit and iron sucrose (generic Venofer), unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or both are contraindicated;
4. If request is for Feraheme, member must use generic ferumoxytol, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 510 mg elemental iron per infusion/injection.

Approval duration ~~3~~12 months

B. Iron Deficiency Anemia without Chronic Kidney Disease (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Louisiana Healthcare Connections benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
2. Documentation of one of the following laboratory results measured since the last IV iron administration:
 - a. Serum ferritin < 15 ng/mL or < 30 ng/mL if pregnant;

Commented [MAT5]: Our Ferrlecit and Venofer policies allow off-label IDA w/o CKD use, so allowed redirection here

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CLINICAL POLICY

Ferumoxytol

- b. Serum ferritin \leq 41 ng/mL and Hb $<$ 12 g/dL (women)/ $<$ 13 g/dL (men);
- c. TSAT $<$ 20%;
- d. Absence of stainable iron in bone marrow;
- e. Increased sTfR or sTfR-ferritin index;
- f. Increased erythrocyte protoporphyrin level;
3. At the time of the request, member does not have CKD;
4. Failure of two of the following agents, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated: Ferrlecit, Infed, or ~~Venofer~~iron sucrose (generic Venofer);
5. If request is for Feraheme, member must use generic ferumoxytol, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
6. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 510 mg elemental iron per infusion/injection.

Approval duration 3 months

C. Management of Cancer- and Chemotherapy-Induced Anemia (off-label) (must meet all):

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit, or documentation supports that member is currently receiving Feraheme for a covered indication and has received this medication for at least 30 days;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. Failure of two of the following agents, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or all are contraindicated: Ferrlecit, Infed, or ~~Venofer~~iron sucrose (generic Venofer);
4. If request is for Feraheme, member must use generic ferumoxytol, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. If request is for a dose increase, new dose is within FDA maximum limit for any FDA-approved indication or is supported by practice guidelines or peer-reviewed literature for the relevant off-label use (prescriber must submit supporting evidence).*

**Prescribed regimen must be FDA-approved or recommended by NCCN*

Approval duration ~~3~~12 months

D. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):

1. If this drug has recently (within the last 6 months) undergone a label change (e.g., newly approved indication, age expansion, new dosing regimen) that is not yet reflected in this policy, refer to LA.PMN.255
2. If the requested use (e.g., diagnosis, age, dosing regimen) is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized) AND criterion 1 above does not apply, refer to the off-label use policy LA.PMN.53.

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III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:

- A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policy – LA.PMN.53 for Medicaid, or evidence of coverage documents.

CLINICAL POLICY

Ferumoxytol

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

CKD: chronic kidney disease	IDA: iron deficiency anemia
ESA: erythropoiesis stimulating agent	TSAT: transferrin saturation
Hb: hemoglobin	sTfR: soluble transferrin receptor

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may not be a formulary agent and may require prior authorization.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
Examples of OTC Oral Iron Formulations*		
Ferrous fumarate (Ferrets, Ferrimin 150)		Varies
Ferrous gluconate (Ferate)		
Ferrous sulfate (BProtected Pedia Iron, Fe-Vite Iron, Fer-In-Sol, FeroSul, Iron Supplement, Iron Supplement Childrens, One Vite Ferrous Sulfate, Slow Fe, Slow Iron)		
Polysaccharide-iron complex (EZFE 200, Ferrex 150, Ferrix x-150, IFerex 150, NovaFerrum 50, NovaFerrum, NovaFerrum Pediatric Drops, Nu-Iron, Poly-Iron 150)		
Injectable iron agents		
Sodium ferric gluconate (Ferrlecit)		Varies
Infed (iron dextran)		
Venofer (iron sucrose (Venofer))		

Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name® (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name®) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.

*Oral formulations include elixirs, liquids, solutions, syrups, capsules, and tablets - including delayed/extended-release tablets.

Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings

- Contraindication(s): known hypersensitivity to Feraheme or any of its components; history of allergic reaction to any intravenous iron product
- Boxed warning(s): serious hypersensitivity/anaphylaxis reactions

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
IDA with or without CKD (adults)	510 mg IV infusion followed by a second 510 mg IV infusion 3 to 8 days later. *For patients receiving hemodialysis, administer after at least one hour of hemodialysis.	510 mg per dose -Treatment course: 1,020 mg -Treatment may be repeated

VI. Product Availability

CLINICAL POLICY

Ferumoxytol

Intravenous solution single-dose vial: 510 mg/17 mL (17 mL)

VII. References

1. Feraheme Prescribing Information. AMAG Waltham, MA: Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; June 2022. Available from <https://www.feraheme.com>. Accessed ~~November 25, 2024~~ October 23, 2025.
2. [Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes \(KDIGO 2012 clinical\) CKD Work Group. KDIGO 2024 Clinical practice guideline for the evaluation and management of chronic kidney disease. *Kidney International Supplements*. January 2013; 3\(1\): 1-136 *Kidney Int*. 2024;105\(4S\):S117-S314.](#)
3. KDIGO 2012 clinical practice guideline for anemia in chronic kidney disease. *Kidney International Supplements*. August 2012; 2(4): 279-331.
4. Babitt JL, Eisenga MF, Haase VH, et al. Controversies in optimal anemia management: conclusions from a Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) Conference. *Kidney Int*. 2021;99(6):1280-1295.
5. Camaschella C. Iron-Deficiency Anemia. *N Engl J Med*. 2015; 372: 1832-43. ~~DOI: 10.1056/NEJMra1401038.~~
6. Short MW, Domagalski JE. Iron Deficiency Anemia: Evaluation and Management. *Am Fam Physician*. 2013; 87(2): 98-104. <http://www.aafp.org/afp/2013/0115/p98.pdf>
7. DeLoughery TG, Jackson CS, Ko CW, Rockey DC. AGA clinical practice update on management of iron deficiency anemia: expert review. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2024;22(8):1575-1583.
8. [Van Doren L, Steinheiser M, Boykin K, et al. Expert consensus guidelines: Intravenous iron uses, formulations, administration, and management of reactions. *Am J Hematol*. 2024;99\(7\):1338-1348.](#)
9. Oral iron monographs. In: UpToDate (Lexicomp), Waltham, MA: Walters Kluwer Health. Updated periodically. Accessed November ~~25, 2024~~ 21, 2025.
10. National Comprehensive Cancer Network Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Available at: http://www.nccn.org/professionals/drug_compendium. Accessed November ~~30, 2024~~ 21, 2025.

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Coding Implications

Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

HCPSC Codes	Description
Q0138	Injection, ferumoxytol, for treatment of iron deficiency anemia, 1 mg (non-ESRD use)
Q0139	Injection, ferumoxytol, for treatment of iron deficiency anemia, 1 mg (for ESRD on dialysis)

CLINICAL POLICY
Ferumoxytol



Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	LDH Approval Date
Converted corporate to local policy.	04.22	06.08.22
Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section. References reviewed and updated. Updated initial criteria to require failure of the following: for IDA and CKD Ferrlecit and Venofer; for IDA without CKD two of Ferrlecit, Infed, or Venofer. Added verbiage this policy is for medical benefit only.	06.02.23	10.05.23
Annual review: added redirections to the generic product, references reviewed and updated.	05.09.24	07.29.24
Added criteria for NCCN-supported indication of cancer- and chemotherapy-induced anemia with redirection to preferred iron products.	09.19.24	01.02.25
Annual review: no significant changes; revised policy/criteria section to also include brand ferumoxytol; references reviewed and updated.	04.25.25	<u>07.14.25</u>
<u>Annual review: no significant changes; revised approval durations for iron deficiency associated with CKD and cancer/chemotherapy from 3 months to 12 months; references reviewed and updated.</u>	<u>01.23.26</u>	

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Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. LHCC makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions, and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable LHCC administrative policies and procedures.

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CLINICAL POLICY

Ferumoxytol

the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. LHCC retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment, or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

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