

Clinical Policy: Ferric Carboxymaltose (Injectafer)

Reference Number: LA.PHAR.234

Effective Date: 09.18.21

Last Review Date: 06.14.23

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

Ferric carboxymaltose (Injectafer[®]) injection is an iron replacement product.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Injectafer is indicated for treatment of iron deficiency anemia (IDA) in:

- Adult and pediatric patients 1 year of age and older who have either intolerance to oral iron or an unsatisfactory response to oral iron
- Adult patients who have non-dialysis dependent chronic kidney disease (CKD)
- Iron deficiency in adult patients with heart failure and New York Heart Association class II/III to improve exercise capacity.

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 Injectafer is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Iron Deficiency Anemia 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) \leq 30%;
 - b. Serum ferritin \leq 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. Member meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. Age $<$ 2 years;

CLINICAL POLICY

Ferric Carboxymaltose

- b. Failure of both of the following (i and ii):
 - i. If age \geq 6 years, Ferrlecit[®];
 - ii. If age \geq 2 years, Venofer[®];
- c. Member has intolerance or contraindication to both Ferrlecit and Venofer, and one of the following (i or ii):
 - i. Age $<$ 18 years;
 - ii. Age \geq 18 years and failure of Feraheme[®], unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Dose does not exceed two 750 mg elemental iron infusions/injections or a single 1,000 mg elemental iron infusion/injection.

Approval duration: 3 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 \leq 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. Member meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. Age $<$ 2 years and failure of Infed[®];
 - b. Failure of two of the following:
 - i. Infed;
 - ii. If age \geq 6 years, Ferrlecit;
 - iii. If age \geq 2 years, Venofer;
 - c. Member has intolerance or contraindication to all preferred injectable agents (e.g. Ferrlecit, Infed, or Venofer), and one of the following (i or ii):
 - i. Age $<$ 18 years;
 - ii. Age \geq 18 years and failure of Feraheme, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. Dose does not exceed two 750 mg elemental iron infusions/injections or a single 1,000 mg elemental iron infusion/injection.

Approval duration: 3 months

CLINICAL POLICY

Ferric Carboxymaltose

C. Iron Deficiency with Heart Failure (must meet all):

1. Diagnosis of iron deficiency confirmed by any of the following:
 - a. Serum ferritin level < 100 ng/mL;
 - b. Serum ferritin level between 100 to 300 ng/mL and TSAT < 20%;
2. Member meets all of the following:
 - a. Hb < 15 g/dL;
 - b. LVEF ≤ 45%;
 - c. New York Heart Association class II or II (*Appendix D*);
 - d. Age ≥ 18 years;
3. Dose does not exceed 1,000 mg elemental iron per infusion/injection.

Approval duration: 3 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 for the relevant line of business: LA.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

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 or b):
 - a. TSAT ≤ 30%;
 - b. Serum ferritin ≤ 500 ng/mL;
3. Member meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. Age < 2 years;
 - b. Failure of both of the following (i and ii):
 - i. If age ≥ 6 years, Ferrlecit®;
 - ii. If age ≥ 2 years, Venofer®;
 - c. Member has intolerance or contraindication to both Ferrlecit and Venofer, and one of the following (i or ii):
 - i. Age < 18 years;
 - ii. Age ≥ 18 years and failure of Feraheme®, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed two 750 mg elemental iron infusions/injections or a single 1,000 mg elemental iron infusion/injection.

Approval duration: 3 months

CLINICAL POLICY

Ferric Carboxymaltose

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, b, c, d, e, or f):
 - a. Serum ferritin < 15 ng/mL or < 30 ng/mL if pregnant;
 - 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. Member meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
 - a. Age < 2 years and failure of Infed;
 - b. Failure of two of the following:
 - i. Infed;
 - ii. If age \geq 6 years, Ferrlecit;
 - iii. If age \geq 2 years, Venofer;
 - c. Member has intolerance or contraindication to all preferred injectable agents (e.g. Ferrlecit, Infed, or Venofer), and one of the following (i or ii):
 - i. Age < 18 years;
 - ii. Age \geq 18 years and failure of Feraheme, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
5. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed two 750 mg elemental iron infusions/injections or a single 1,000 mg elemental iron infusion/injection.

Approval duration: 3 months

CLINICAL POLICY

Ferric Carboxymaltose

C. Iron Deficiency with Heart Failure (must meet all):

1. Member meets one of the following (a or b):
 - a. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
 - b. Member is currently receiving medication and is enrolled in a state and product with continuity of care regulations (refer to state specific addendums for CC.PHARM.03A and CC.PHARM.03B);
2. Documentation of one of the following laboratory results measured since the last IV iron administration (a or b):
 - a. Serum ferritin <100 ng/mL;
 - b. Serum ferritin 100 to 300 ng/mL with transferrin saturation < 20%
3. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed a single 1,000 mg elemental iron infusion/injection.

Approval duration: 3 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 for the relevant line of business: LA.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

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.

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	LVEF: left ventricular ejection fraction
NYHA: New York Heart Association	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.

CLINICAL POLICY
Ferric Carboxymaltose

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
Examples of OTC Oral Iron Formulations*		
Ferrous fumarate (Ferretts, Ferrimin 150)	Varies	
Ferrous gluconate (Ferate)		
Ferrous sulfate (BProtected Pedia Iron, Fer-In-Sol, FerroSul, Iron Supplement, Iron Supplement Childrens, Slow Fe, Slow Iron)		
Polysaccharide-iron complex (EZFE 200, Ferrex 150, Ferrix x-150, IFerex 150, NovaFerrum 125, NovaFerrum, NovaFerrum Pediatric Drops, Nu-Iron, Poly-Iron 150)		
Injectable iron agents		
Sodium ferric gluconate (Ferrlecit)	Varies	
Infed (iron dextran)		
Venofer (iron sucrose)		
Feraheme (ferumoxytol)		

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): Hypersensitivity to Injectafer or any of its inactive components.
- Boxed warning(s): None reported.

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
IDA with non-dialysis dependent CKD (adults)	<p>≥ 50kg (110lb): two 750 mg doses by IV infusion separated by at least 7 days for a cumulative dose of 1,500 mg per course.</p> <p>Alternatively, a single-dose treatment course may be administered as 15 mg/kg to a maximum of 1,000 mg.</p> <p>< 50kg (110lb): two doses by IV infusion separated by at least 7 days as 15 mg/kg body weight.</p>	<p>Two dose treatment course: 750 mg per dose (up to 1,500 mg)</p> <p>Single dose treatment course: 1,000 mg</p> <p>Treatment may be repeated</p>
IDA with intolerance to oral iron or unsatisfactory	≥ 50kg (110lb): two 750 mg doses by IV infusion separated by at least 7 days for a cumulative dose of 1,500 mg per course.	See dosing regimen

CLINICAL POLICY

Ferric Carboxymaltose

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
response to oral iron (adults and pediatric patients \geq 1 year old)	< 50kg (110lb): two doses by IV infusion separated by at least 7 days as 15 mg/kg body weight.	
Iron deficiency with heart failure and NYHA Class II/III (adults)	<p>\geq 70 kg (154lb):</p> <p>Hb < 10 g/dL: 1,000 mg on day 1, then 500 mg on week 6</p> <p>Hb 10 to 14 g/dL: 1,000 mg on day 1</p> <p>Hb > 14 to < 15 g/dL: 500 mg on day 1</p> <p>< 70 kg (154lb):</p> <p>Hb < 10 g/dL: 1,000 mg on day 1, then 1,000 mg on week 6</p> <p>Hb 10 to 14 g/dL: 1,000 mg on day 1, then 500 mg on week 6</p> <p>Hb > 14 to < 15 g/dL: 500 mg on day 1</p> <p>Maintenance dose: 500 mg at 12, 24 and 36 weeks.</p>	See dosing regimen

VI. Product Availability

Intravenous solution single-dose vial: 100 mg/2 mL, 750 mg/15 mL, 1,000 mg/20 mL

VII. References

1. Injectafer prescribing information. Shirley, NY: American Regent, Inc.; May 2023. Available from <https://injectafer.com/>. Accessed June 12, 2023.
2. KDIGO 2012 clinical practice guideline for evaluation and management of chronic kidney disease. *Kidney International Supplements*. January 2013; 3(1): 1-136.
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. Oral iron monographs. In: UpToDate (Lexicomp), Waltham, MA: Wolters Kluwer Health. Updated periodically. Accessed November 20, 2022.

CLINICAL POLICY

Ferric Carboxymaltose

8. Ponikowski P, van Veldhuisen DJ, Comin-Colet J, et al. Beneficial effects of long-term intravenous iron therapy with ferric carboxymaltose in patients with symptomatic heart failure and iron deficiency. *Eur Heart J.* 2015 Mar 14;36(11):657-68. doi: 10.1093/eurheartj/ehu385.

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.

HCPCS Codes	Description
J1439	Injection, ferric carboxymaltose, 1 mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	LDH Approval Date
Converted corporate to local policy.	06.2021	09.18.21
<p>Template changes applied to other diagnoses/indications and continued therapy section. Added updated vial strength of 100 mg/2 mL; FDA-approved age expansion was updated to reflect approval for pediatric patients 1 year of age and older who have either intolerance to oral iron or have had an unsatisfactory response to oral iron; references reviewed and updated. Updated initial criteria to require failure of the following with associated age considerations: for IDA and CKD Ferrlecit and Venofer; for IDA without CKD two of Ferrlecit, Infed, or Venofer; additionally, added redirection to Feraheme in a step-wise fashion if member has intolerance or contraindication to all preferred injectable agents.</p> <p>Added blurb this policy is for medical benefit only.</p> <p>Updated FDA Approved Indications(s) section to include iron deficiency with heart failure per updated prescribing information; added to Section I, II, and IV for new indication.</p> <p>Per health plan request and SDC, for IDA with and without CKD, added redirections from initial approval criteria to continued therapy.</p>	06.14.23	

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

CLINICAL POLICY

Ferric Carboxymaltose

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.

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Ferric Carboxymaltose

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