

Q1 2019 Payment Limit Report for Nephrology

CMS has released the Q1 2019 drug pricing files for both average sales price (ASP) and not otherwise classified (NOC) drugs. These changes are effective **January 1, 2019**, and will remain in effect until either a correction or the next scheduled update is made by CMS.

The data used for the Q1 2019 reimbursement files is based on the Q3 2018 sales data submitted to CMS by drug manufacturers. We encourage you to review the revised drug payment limit files, including reimbursement allowables on NOC drugs, on the [CMS Website](#).

2% Sequestration Cut to Medicare Reimbursements

Due to sequestration, a 2% cut to Medicare payments has been applied to providers with services dates on or after April 1, 2013. As a result, the effective rate for office-administered drugs will be ASP+4.3%. However, the underlying allowable will remain at ASP+6%, which may be a basis for private payer reimbursement rates. We encourage you to check with your private payers to understand their allowable rates for physician fee schedule Part B drugs.

Drug	HCPCS Code	Billing Unit	Q4 2018 ASP+6%	Q1 2019 ASP+6%	% Change
Alteplase recombinant (ACTIVASE®)	J2997	1 MG	\$87.78	\$87.75	-0.04%
Darbepoetin alfa (ARANESP®)	J0881	1 MCG	\$3.77	\$3.83	1.57%
Decitabine Injection (DACOGEN®)	J0894	1 MG	\$14.07	\$12.63	-10.20%
Denosumab (PROLIA®/ XGEVA®)	J0897	1 MG	\$18.58	\$18.61	0.17%
Doxercalciferol (HECTOROL®)	J1270	1 MCG	\$0.47	\$0.47	-0.64%
Epoetin alfa (EPOGEN®)	Q4081	100 UNITS	\$1.23	\$1.20	-2.61%
Epoetin alfa, non-esrd (PROCRIT®)	J0887	1,000 U	\$1.74	\$1.72	-1.39%
Epoetin alfa-epbx (RETACRIT)	Q5101	1 MCG	\$0.64	\$0.64	-0.47%
Ferric carboxymaltose (INJECTAFER®)	J1439	1 MG	\$1.06	\$1.08	2.27%
Iron Sucrose (VENOFER)	J1756	1 MG	\$0.23	\$0.24	1.74%
Sod Ferric Gluconate (Ferrlecit)	J2916	12.5 MG	\$2.28	\$1.94	-14.74%

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