

A. ESA Conversion Table (IV Epoetin → SC Epoetin → IV Darbepoetin → IV Mircera)

Table 1. Estimated Aranesp Starting Doses (mcg/week) for Patients With CKD on Dialysis Based on Previous Epoetin alfa Dose (Units/week)

Previous Weekly Epoetin alfa Dose (Units/week)	Aranesp Dose (mcg/week)	
	Adult	Pediatric
< 1,500	6.25	*
1,500 to 2,499	6.25	6.25
2,500 to 4,999	12.5	10
5,000 to 10,999	25	20
11,000 to 17,999	40	40
18,000 to 33,999	60	60
34,000 to 89,999	100	100
≥ 90,000	200	200

*For pediatric patients receiving a weekly epoetin alfa dose of < 1,500 Units/week, the available data are insufficient to determine an Aranesp conversion dose.

https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2011/103951orig1s5173_103951orig1s5258lbl.pdf

IV Epoetin (units)	IV Freq	SC Epoetin (units)	SC Freq	IV Mircera (mcg)	Mircera Freq
1,000	TIW	700–800	2–3× weekly	30	q4 weeks
2,000	TIW	1,400–1,600	2–3× weekly	50	q4 weeks
3,000	TIW	2,100–2,400	2–3× weekly	75	q4 weeks
4,000	TIW	2,800–3,200	2–3× weekly	100	q4 weeks
5,000	TIW	3,500–4,000	2–3× weekly	120	q4 weeks
10,000	TIW	7,000–8,000	2–3× weekly	200	q4 weeks

B. ESA Conversion Rules (Exam + Clinical Use)

- **IV → SC epoetin:** reduce dose by **20–30%**
- **Epoetin → Darbepoetin:**
~200 units epoetin ≈ 1 mcg darbepoetin
- **Epoetin → Mircera:**
Convert **total weekly epoetin dose** → Mircera **q4 weeks**
- **Mircera advantage:** longest half-life → **monthly dosing**

C. Dose Rounding by Available Vial/Syringe Sizes

Epoetin Alfa (IV/SC)

- Common vial sizes: **1,000 | 2,000 | 3,000 | 4,000 | 10,000 units**
- ♦ Round to nearest **1,000 units**

Darbepoetin Alfa (IV)

- Common syringe sizes: **10 | 20 | 40 | 60 | 100 mcg**
- ♦ Round to nearest **10 mcg**

Mircera® (IV)

- Common syringe sizes: **30 | 50 | 75 | 100 | 150 | 200 mcg**

- ◆ Round to nearest **25–50 mcg**
- ◆ Dosed **q2–4 weeks** (most HD patients: **q4 weeks**)

- **SC epoetin = ~25% less than IV**
- **Darbepoetin = epoetin ÷ 200, weekly**
- **Mircera = monthly ESA; convert from total weekly epoetin**

B. IV Vitamin D Conversion Table (*Hectorol®* → *Zemplar®*)

IV Hectorol® (Doxercalciferol)	Frequency	Equivalent IV Zemplar® (Paricalcitol)	Frequency
1 mcg	TIW (HD)	0.5 mcg	TIW
2 mcg	TIW	1 mcg	TIW
3 mcg	TIW	1.5 mcg	TIW
4 mcg	TIW	2 mcg	TIW
5 mcg	TIW	2.5 mcg	TIW
6 mcg	TIW	3 mcg	TIW
8 mcg	TIW	4 mcg	TIW
10 mcg	TIW	5 mcg	TIW

B. Conversion Rule (Clinical & Exam Use)

- **Hectorol → Zemplar ≈ 2 : 1**
 - **2 mcg doxercalciferol ≈ 1 mcg paricalcitol**
- **Frequency remains the same** (usually **TIW** with hemodialysis)

C. Dose Rounding by Available Vial Sizes

Hectorol® (Doxercalciferol IV)

- Common vial sizes: **1 mcg | 2 mcg | 4 mcg**
- ◆ Round to nearest **1–2 mcg**
- ◆ Typical max doses: **8–10 mcg TIW** (protocol-dependent)

Zemplar® (Paricalcitol IV)

- Common vial sizes: **1 mcg | 2 mcg | 5 mcg**
- ◆ Round to nearest **0.5–1 mcg**
- ◆ May be preferred in patients with:
 - Hypercalcemia
 - Hyperphosphatemia

D. Monitoring & Adjustment Pearls

- Dose adjustments guided primarily by **PTH trends**
- Monitor:
 - **Calcium**
 - **Phosphorus**
 - **Ca × P product**

- Hold or reduce dose if:
 - Calcium persistently elevated
 - Phosphorus uncontrolled
-

- **Zemplar dose \approx half the Hectorol dose**
- **Same TIW schedule — only the mcg changes**

OpenAI. ChatGPT [large language model]. Version GPT-5.2.
Generated January 2026. <https://chat.openai.com/>