

097

EPOETIN AND DARBEPOETIN DOSE EQUIVALENCY AND COST EFFECTIVENESS (C1), Jessica Tarrell, Gregory Ono. VA Northern California, Mather, CA ([jessica.tarrell@va.gov](mailto:jessica.tarrell@va.gov)) IRB approval received.

Erythropoiesis stimulating agents are one of the highest cost drug classes used within the VA. The primary objective of this study is to determine the dose equivalency of epoetin alfa to darbepoetin alfa and establish which of these two medications is more cost effective in the VA setting. The secondary objective is to investigate how the dose equivalency varies by disease state, patient demographics, and lab values. This study will be a retrospective analysis of patients within Veterans Affairs Northern California Health Care System newly started on epoetin or darbepoetin and treated for a duration of at least twelve weeks with documented hemoglobin levels. Patients converted from one agent to the other, those with documented hemoglobin  $<8\text{g/dL}$  or  $>13\text{g/dL}$ , and those with depleted iron stores will be excluded. The dose equivalency will be calculated using the cumulative change in hemoglobin from baseline, as measured by the area under the hemoglobin change curve, per unit drug. The dose equivalency will be used to determine the cost effectiveness. This data will be stratified by indication, patient demographics, and lab values to determine if there are significant differences in dose equivalency among different patient populations. Results will be presented.