### DRUG: ERYTHROPOIETIN (Epoetin alfa)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRESENTATION:</th>
<th>Prefilled syringes: varying strengths</th>
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| ACTION & INDICATION: | Stimulates erythropoiesis  
Decreases the need for blood transfusions in pre-term infants  
Anaemia of prematurity |
| DOSE: | 200 units/kg on alternate days  
OR  
100 units kg/daily  
Use for 2 to 6 weeks  
Supplement with:  
Ferrous sulphate mixture 0.5mL/kg/day initially  
1mL/kg/day at full feeds  
Multivitamins  
Folic acid 100 microgram daily  
Vitamin E 10-15 units daily |
| PREPARATION: | Use syringe prepackaged for individual patient use. |
| ADMINISTRATION: | Intravenous: over 3-5 minutes  
Subcutaneous: As per NCCU policy |
| ADVERSE EFFECTS: | Neutropenia  
Hypertension  
Cutaneous rashes  
Seizures |
| COMMENTS: | Monitor (at start of treatment and then weekly):  
Full blood count with differential, reticulocyte count and platelet count.  
Cease treatment if granulocyte count < 1000 or haematocrit >45.  
Protect from light |
| REFERENCES: | Paediatric Pharmacopoeia 13th Ed Royal Children’s Hospital Melbourne  
Neofax 2012 |
| DATE: | August 2013 |