



# Darbepoetin

*Boosts red blood cell production*

Your vet has prescribed darbepoetin for your pet. It is a man-made version of a hormone made by healthy kidneys, which tells the bone marrow to produce red blood cells. The label on your pet's medicine always comes first, so keep this with it and ask us anything you're unsure about.

## What is it used for?

- Treating anaemia (low red blood cells) caused by long-term kidney disease.

## How quickly does it work?

- It takes about 3 to 4 weeks to see a rise in red blood cells.

## How do I give it?

- It is given by injection under the skin, at the practice or at home once we have shown you how.
- Keep it in the fridge and never freeze it. Don't shake the syringe.
- Doses are usually weekly at first, then less often.

## What if I miss a dose?

- Give it when you remember, unless the next dose is nearly due. In that case skip the missed one.
- Never give two doses together to catch up.

## Possible side effects

- High blood pressure.
- Pain at the injection site.
- Rarely, the body reacts against it and the anaemia gets worse.

## Monitoring and check-ups

- Regular blood tests and blood pressure checks are essential.
- Red blood cell counts and blood pressure are usually checked every 1 to 2 weeks at first, then less often.

## Important things to know

- Your pet may also need iron supplements.
- Tell your vet about any other medicines, supplements or flea and worm treatments your pet has.
- Store safely out of reach of children and other pets. This medicine is for your pet only.

## Your questions answered

- **Why does my pet need iron too?** The body needs iron to build new red blood cells.
- **Is it for life?** Usually, while the kidney disease continues.

### Call us straight away on 01843 808344 (24/7) if:

- Your pet becomes very weak, pale or breathless.
- Your pet has a seizure or sudden blindness.
- You think your pet (or anyone else) has taken too much.

## Mango's Top Tip

Keep a little fridge note: date, dose and which side you injected. It makes check-ups so much easier.