

**SAMPLE**

## **For Medicare/Medicaid Cancer Patients Who Take Procrit/Aranesp**

**Please Write Your Senators and Congressional Representatives Today.**

### **Why Write?**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) recently made a change limiting the availability for use of Procrit and Aranesp in cancer patients. This ruling affects only Medicare and Medicaid patients (not commercial insurance patients).

These new changes are contrary to those the Food and Drug Administration approved several years ago for these two drugs. They are also contrary to the clinical practice guidelines for both the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the American Society of Hematology. These two professional organizations help set the standards for patient care in the fields of oncology and hematology. By making these decisions, CMS is now dictating to physicians at your cancer clinic how to practice medicine and administer treatment.

### **What This Means For Cancer Patients.**

If you're a Medicare or Medicaid patient, your Procrit/Aranesp may no longer be paid for.

### **What to Say in Your Letter.**

- Tell your senator/congressional representative you are a patient at XYZ Hospital.
- Tell them you believe CMS is restricting your access to symptom management care, which directly affects your ability to perform daily activities.
- Tell them how important either Procrit/Aranesp is to your quality-of-life.
- Ask them to take what steps they can to push for restoring your access to these medicines before CMS made these recent changes.

### **Send Your Letter to Any of the Below.**

**XYZ Senator(s)**

XYZ Address

**AND/OR**

**XYZ Congressman**

XYZ Address