FDA Approved: 11-8-07

Patient Information
Aranesp® (Air-uh-nesp)
darbepoetin alfa
Single-use Prefilled SureClick™ Autoinjector

This patient package insert contains information and directions for patients (and their caregivers) whose doctor has determined that they may receive injections of Aranesp® (Air-uh-nesp) at home. Please read it carefully. This patient package insert does not include all information about Aranesp® and does not replace talking with your doctor. You should discuss any questions about treatment with Aranesp® with your doctor. Only your doctor can prescribe Aranesp® and determine if it is right for you.

What is the most important information I should know about Aranesp®?

Aranesp® can cause serious side effects:

Chronic kidney failure patients:

- If your hemoglobin is kept too high, you have an increased chance of heart attack, stroke, heart failure, blood clots, and death. Your doctor should try to keep your hemoglobin between 10 and 12 g/dL.

Cancer patients:

- You may have an increased chance of dying sooner or your tumor (cancer) may grow faster if you take this drug.
- Your doctor should use the lowest dose of Aranesp® needed to help you avoid red blood cell transfusions.
- Once you have completed your chemotherapy course, Aranesp® treatment should be stopped.

All patients:

- Aranesp® treatment increases your chance of a blood clot. If you are scheduled for surgery, your doctor may prescribe a blood thinner to prevent blood clots.
- Blood clots can form at your vascular access if you are receiving hemodialysis. Call your doctor or dialysis center if you think your access is blocked.
- Blood clots can form in blood vessels (veins) in your leg (venous thrombosis). Blood clots may move from the legs to the lungs and block the blood circulation in the lungs (pulmonary embolus).

Call your doctor right away if you experience any of the following symptoms of a blood clot, while taking Aranesp®:

- chest pain
- shortness of breath
- pain in the legs with or without swelling

You will be asked to have blood tests that will check the number of red blood cells your body is producing. The blood tests will see if Aranesp® is working and if your hemoglobin level is getting too high. Your doctor may refer to the results of your blood tests as hemoglobin and hematocrit. The amount of time it takes to reach the red blood cell level that is right for you, and the dose of Aranesp® needed to make the red blood cell level rise, is different for each person. You may need Aranesp® dose adjustments before you reach your correct dose of Aranesp® and the correct dose may change over time. It is important to keep all appointments for blood tests to allow your doctor to adjust the dosage of Aranesp® as needed.

Please also read **"What are the possible side effects of Aranesp®?"** below.

What is Aranesp®?

Aranesp® is a man-made form of the protein human erythropoietin (ee-rith-row-po-eh-tin). Aranesp® works by stimulating your bone marrow to make red blood cells. After two to six weeks of treatment, your red blood cell counts may increase.

Aranesp® may be used to treat your anemia (a lower than normal number of red blood cells) if it is caused by:

- chronic kidney failure (you may or may not be on dialysis)
- chemotherapy used to treat cancer

Aranesp® does not improve symptoms of anemia, quality of life, fatigue, or patient well-being for patients with cancer.

Before receiving Aranesp®, you should talk with your doctor about the benefits and risks of Aranesp®.

Who <u>should not take</u> Aranesp®?

You should not take Aranesp® if you have:

- High blood pressure that is not controlled (uncontrolled hypertension).
- Antibodies to Aranesp® or other erythropoietins.

Talk to your doctor if you are not sure if you have these conditions or if you have any questions about this information.

What should I tell my doctor before taking Aranesp®?

Tell your doctor about all your health conditions and all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, supplements, and herbals. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have:

- Heart disease
- High blood pressure
- Any history of seizures or strokes
- Blood disorders (such as sickle cell anemia, blood clotting disorders)

Tell your doctor if you are:

- Pregnant or nursing
- Planning to become pregnant

Aranesp® has not been studied in pregnant women and its effects on developing babies are not known. It is also not known if Aranesp® can pass into human breast milk.

Talk to your doctor if you are not sure if you have these conditions or if you have any questions about this information.

Your doctor may monitor your blood pressure and the amount of iron in your blood before you start Aranesp® and while you are taking Aranesp®. You or your caregiver may also be asked to monitor your blood pressure every day and to report any changes. When the number of red blood cells increases, your blood pressure may also increase, so your doctor may prescribe new or more blood pressure medicine. You may be asked to have certain blood tests, such as hemoglobin, hematocrit or blood iron levels. Also, your doctor may prescribe iron for you to take. Follow your doctor's orders.

What are other possible side effects of Aranesp®?

Aranesp® may cause serious side effects. See "**What is the most important information I should know about Aranesp®?**"

Other side effects of Aranesp® include:

- Increased blood pressure; your doctor or caregiver may monitor your blood pressure more frequently.
- Infections
- Cough
- Chest pain
- Antibodies against Aranesp® that can block or reduce your body's ability to make red blood cells. If you experience unusual tiredness and lack of energy, **call your doctor**.
- Redness, swelling, pain, or itching at the site of injection. If you notice any signs of redness, swelling, or itching at the site of injection, talk to your doctor.
- Serious allergic reactions. These reactions can cause a rash over the whole body, shortness of breath, wheezing, a drop in blood pressure, swelling around the mouth or eyes,

fast pulse, or sweating. If at any time a serious allergic reaction occurs, **stop using Aranesp® and call your doctor or emergency medical personnel immediately (for example, call 911)**.

The needle cover on the prefilled syringe contains a derivative of latex. If you know you are allergic to latex, talk to your healthcare provider before using Aranesp®.

The most common side effects you may have when taking Aranesp® are:

- Increased blood pressure
- Decreased blood pressure
- Body or muscle aches
- Headache
- Diarrhea
- Shortness of breath
- Swelling in your arms or legs
- Fever
- Nausea or vomiting
- Infections
- Chest pain

Some side effects are more common depending on the reasons for which you are taking Aranesp®. Talk to your doctor for more information about side effects. Make sure to report any side effects to your doctor.

Aranesp® has other side effects that are not listed here. For a complete list, talk to your doctor.

Call your doctor right away if:

- You take more than the amount prescribed.
- You are currently taking Aranesp® and experience any of these symptoms, which may be a sign of a serious problem:
    - Unusual tiredness and lack of energy
    - Redness, swelling, pain, or itching at the site of injection and spreading rash over the whole body, shortness of breath, wheezing, a drop in blood pressure, swelling around the mouth or eyes, fast pulse, or sweating
    - Convulsion, confusion, dizziness, loss of consciousness
    - Increased blood pressure, chest pain, irregular heartbeats
    - Stroke, chest pain, shortness of breath, or pain with or without swelling in the legs
    - Blood clots in your hemodialysis vascular access port

What important information do I need to know about taking Aranesp® at home?

After your doctor has determined that you can safely use Aranesp® at home, you or your caregiver will receive instructions on how much Aranesp® to use, how to inject it, how often it should be injected, and how to dispose of the used vial, prefilled syringe or autoinjector. Your doctor will decide whether to use Aranesp® in vials, prefilled syringes, or prefilled autoinjectors. Do not change the way you use Aranesp® (including the dose of Aranesp®) without consulting your doctor. You should ask your doctor what to do if you miss a dose of Aranesp®. **You should always follow your doctor's instructions.**

How should I store Aranesp®?

- Always keep the single-use prefilled SureClick™ autoinjector in the original box to protect Aranesp® from light. Do not leave the autoinjector exposed to light longer than necessary to inject Aranesp®.
- Keep Aranesp® inside the refrigerator at 2° to 8°C (36° to 46°F). **DO NOT FREEZE.**
- When traveling, transport Aranesp® in its original box in an insulated container with an ice pack. To avoid freezing, make sure the Aranesp® prefilled SureClick™ autoinjector does not touch the ice pack. Once you arrive, your Aranesp® should be placed in a refrigerator as soon as possible.

Do not use a prefilled SureClick™ autoinjector that has been frozen, improperly left in light, or improperly refrigerated. It is important that Aranesp® be stored and used as stated in these instructions. Contact your pharmacist or healthcare provider with any questions about storage.

How do I take Aranesp®?

This section contains information on how to give yourself an injection of Aranesp® using the single-use, prefilled SureClick™ autoinjector. You will need to give yourself the injection into the tissue just under the skin. This is called a subcutaneous injection. It is important that you do not try to give yourself the injection unless you have received special training from your doctor or nurse. **If you are not sure about giving the injection or you have any questions, please ask your doctor or nurse for help.**

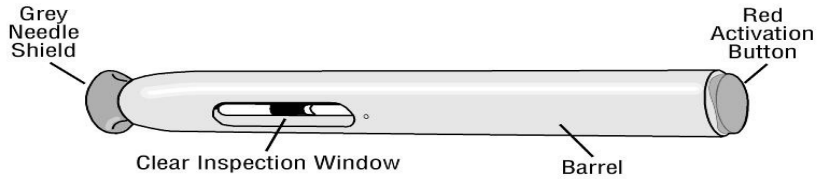
To give yourself a subcutaneous injection you will need:

- A new single-use Aranesp® prefilled SureClick™ autoinjector
- Alcohol or sterile wipe
- A puncture-proof container so you can dispose of the used autoinjector safely

IMPORTANT: TO HELP AVOID POSSIBLE INFECTION, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS.

How do I prepare for an injection of Aranesp®?

1. Take your autoinjector out of the refrigerator. Keep the autoinjector in its box until you are ready to use it.
   - **Do not shake the autoinjector or leave exposed to bright light.** Vigorous shaking or exposure to light could cause the drug to become inactive. If the Aranesp® prefilled SureClick™ autoinjector has been shaken vigorously, the solution may appear foamy and it should not be used.
   - **Do not use an autoinjector that has been frozen, improperly left in light, or improperly refrigerated.**
2. Check that it is the correct dose that your doctor has prescribed.
3. Check the expiration date on the autoinjector label. **If the last day of the month shown has passed, do not use the autoinjector** and contact your pharmacist or healthcare provider for assistance.
4. Remove the autoinjector from the box. For a more comfortable injection, leave the autoinjector at room temperature for about 30 minutes. During this time, cover the autoinjector to protect the solution from light.
   - **Do not** warm Aranesp® in any other way (for example, do not warm it in a microwave or in hot water). **Do not** leave the autoinjector exposed to direct sunlight.
   - **Do not** remove the grey needle shield from the autoinjector until you are ready to inject.
   - **NEVER** put the grey needle shield back into the autoinjector.
5. Check the appearance of Aranesp® through the inspection window. It must be a clear and colorless liquid. **Do not inject the solution if it looks discolored or cloudy or contains lumps, flakes, or particles.** Contact your pharmacist or healthcare provider or call 1-866-55AMGEN for assistance.
6. **Wash your hands thoroughly.**
7. Find a comfortable, well-lit place and put everything you need where you can reach it (the autoinjector, alcohol or sterile wipe, and puncture-proof container).



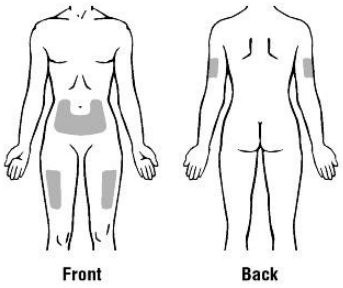
Where should I give my injection?

The recommended sites for injection using a single-use Aranesp® prefilled SureClick™ autoinjector are:

- The front center of thighs; and

- The back of the upper arms, only if someone else is injecting you

The abdomen can be considered when the thigh and back of arm are judged by your healthcare provider to be inappropriate.



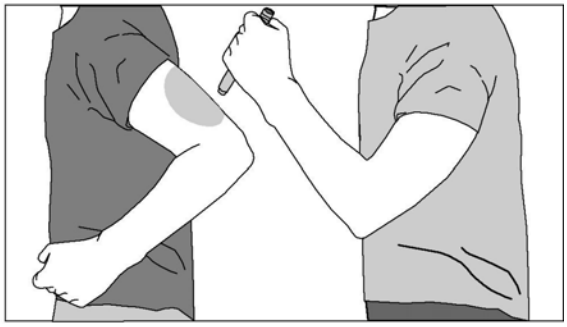
Be sure to change the site for each injection to avoid soreness at any one site.

- Do not inject into areas where the skin is tender, bruised, red, or hard.
- Avoid areas with scars or stretch marks.

Occasionally a problem may develop at the injection site. If there is a lump, swelling, or bruising at the injection site that does not go away, talk to your doctor.

How do I give an injection into the thigh or the back of the arm?

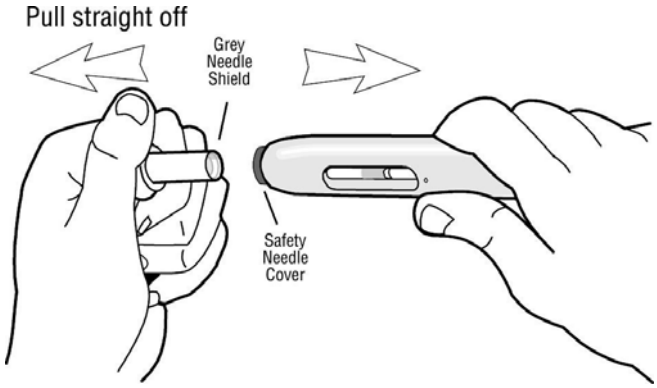
Do not pinch



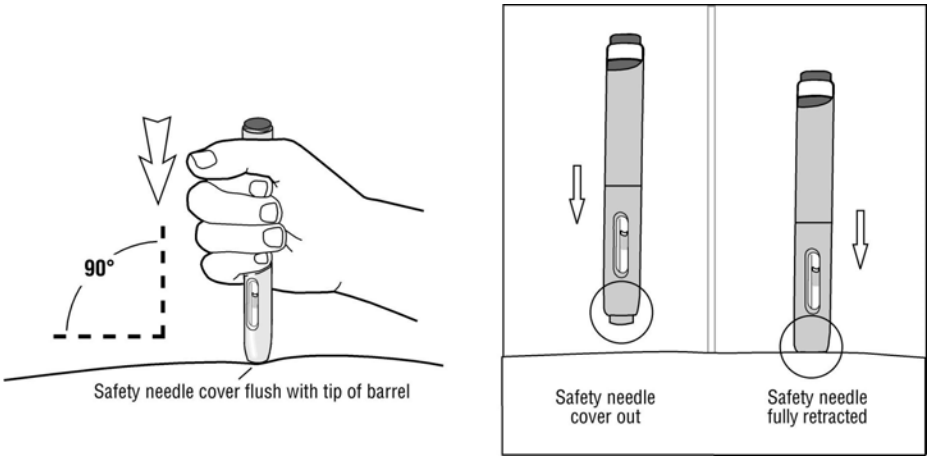
Do not pinch

1. Wipe the injection site with a new alcohol or sterile swab and allow your skin to dry. **Do not touch this area again before giving the injection.**

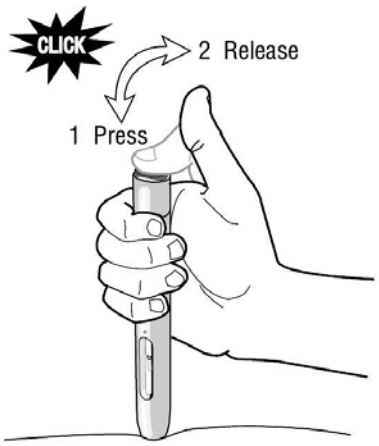
2. Pick up the prefilled SureClick™ autoinjector in one hand and smoothly remove the grey needle shield by pulling it straight off. Do not twist it off, and do not recap the grey needle shield, as either of these may damage the needle inside the autoinjector. The SureClick™ autoinjector has a cover that will protect you from needle sticks or loss of drug by accidental bumping or touching.



3. **Without** pressing the red activation button, place the open end of the autoinjector on the injection site, straight up at a right angle (90°) and push the safety needle cover firmly against the skin to unlock. **Continue to hold firmly against the skin.**

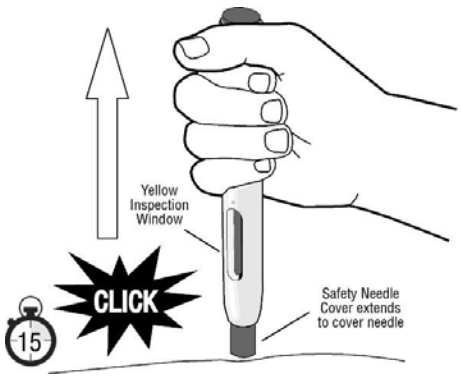


4. To start the injection, (1) press the red button (first click will sound) and (2) immediately release your thumb. This starts the injection. **Do not lift** the autoinjector off the skin.

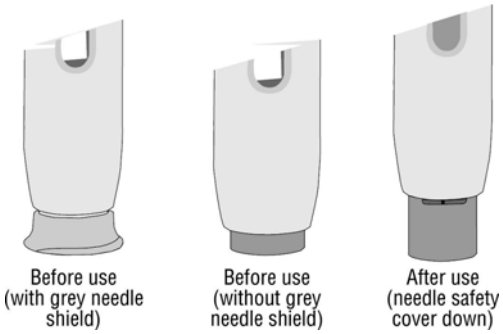


5. **Wait until you hear the second 'click'.** Once you hear the second click, lift the autoinjector straight up from the injection site. The injection is finished. The safety needle cover on the autoinjector will automatically extend to cover the needle.

   If you did not remove your thumb from the red button, the second 'click' cannot be heard. If this happens, slowly count to 15 before lifting the autoinjector from the injection site.



The needle safety cover will move down over the needle and lock into place. The inspection window will be yellow, confirming the injection is complete. Verify that the inspection window is yellow to ensure that the injection is complete before lifting the autoinjector. There is no need to replace the grey needle shield.



If the inspection window is not yellow, do not try to use the autoinjector again.

If you suspect you have not received the full dose, do not repeat the injection using a new autoinjector.

Call your healthcare provider or 1-866-55AMGEN for assistance.

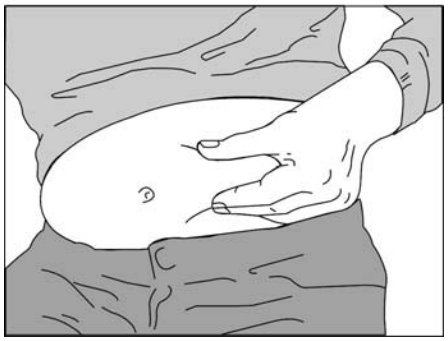
If you notice a spot of blood at the injection site, dab away with a cotton ball or tissues. Do not rub the injection site. If needed, you may cover the injection site with a bandage.

How do I inject into the abdomen?

Important skin pinch technique

The objective of the skin pinch technique is to create a firm site for the injection.

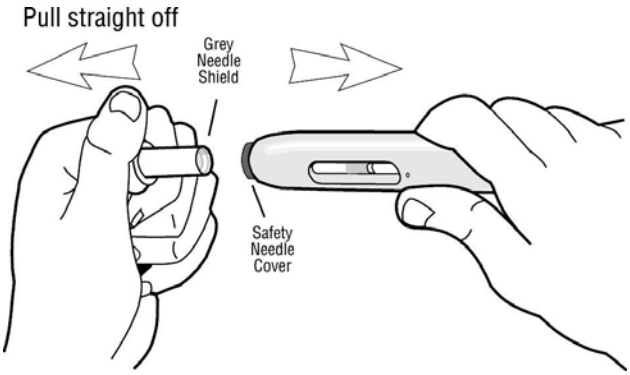
- Choose a site at least 2 inches away from the belly button (navel).
- Pinch the skin of the abdomen **firmly** between the thumb and fingers creating a space at least 2 inches wide (twice the width of the tip of the autoinjector). It is important to maintain a firm skin pinch for the entire injection.



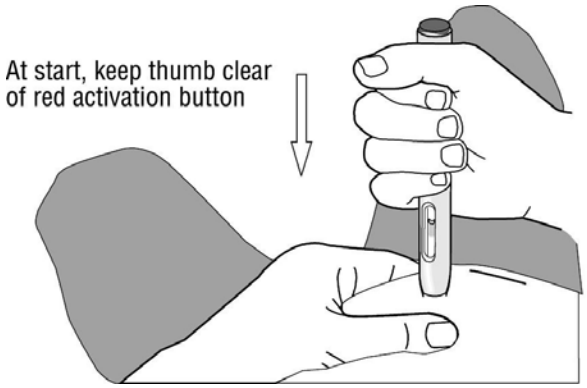
Pinch

1. Wipe the injection site with a new alcohol or sterile swab and allow your skin to dry. **Do not touch this area again before giving the injection.**

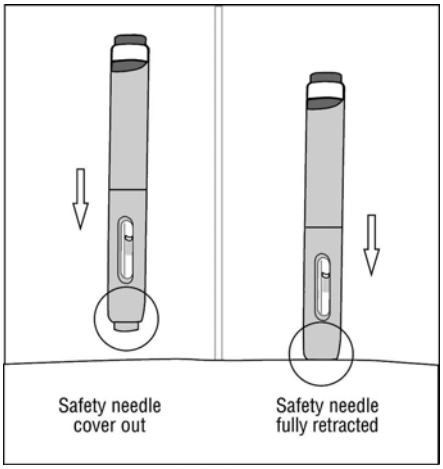
2. Pick up the prefilled SureClick™ autoinjector in one hand and smoothly remove the grey needle shield by pulling it straight off. Do not twist it off, and do not recap the grey needle shield, as either of these may damage the needle inside the autoinjector. The SureClick™ autoinjector has a cover that will protect you from needle sticks or loss of drug by accidental bumping or touching.



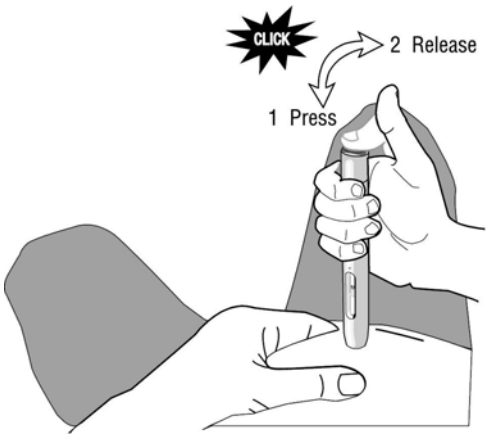
3. **Without** pressing the red activation button, place the open end of the autoinjector on the injection site, straight up at a right angle (90°) and push the safety needle cover firmly against the skin to unlock. **Continue to hold firmly against the skin.**



IMPORTANT: Press the autoinjector firmly enough against the skin so that the safety cover is fully retracted.



4. To start the injection, (1) press the red button (first click will sound) and (2) immediately release your thumb. This starts the injection. **Do not lift** the autoinjector off the skin.



5. **Wait until you hear the second 'click'.** Once you hear the second click, lift the autoinjector straight up from the injection site. The injection is finished. The safety needle cover on the autoinjector will automatically extend to cover the needle.

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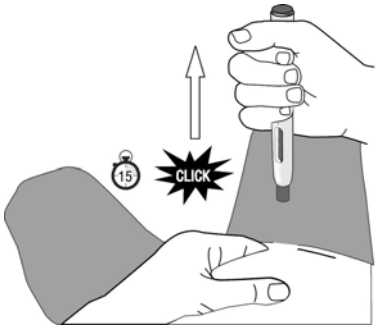
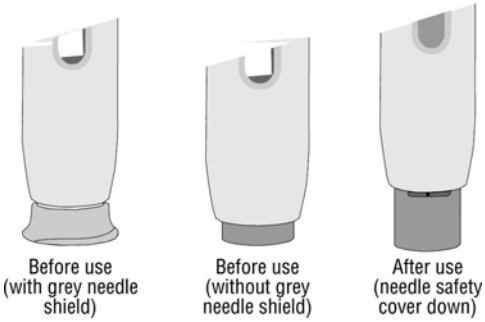


The needle safety cover will move down over the needle and lock into place. The inspection window will be yellow, confirming the injection is complete. Verify that the inspection window is yellow to ensure that the injection is complete before lifting the autoinjector. There is no need to replace the grey needle shield.



If the inspection window is not yellow, do not try to use the autoinjector again. If you suspect you have not received the full dose, do not repeat the injection using a new autoinjector.

Call your healthcare provider or 1-866-55AMGEN for assistance.

If you notice a spot of blood at the injection site, dab away with a cotton ball or tissues. Do not rub the injection site. If needed, you may cover the injection site with a bandage.

Remember

If you have any problems, please do not be afraid to ask your healthcare provider for help and advice.

How do I dispose of used autoinjectors?

The Aranesp® prefilled SureClick™ autoinjector should **NEVER** be reused. **NEVER** put the grey needle shield back into the autoinjector.

Dispose of the used autoinjector as instructed by your healthcare provider, or by following these steps:

1. Do not throw the used autoinjector in the household trash or recycle.
2. Place the used autoinjector in a hard plastic disposal container with a screw-on cap or a metal container with a plastic lid, such as a coffee can, labeled "used syringes." If a metal container is used, cut a small hole in the plastic lid and tape the lid to the metal container. If a hard plastic container is used, always screw the cap on tightly after each use. Do not use glass or clear plastic containers. Puncture-resistant containers may also be purchased at your local pharmacy.
3. When the container is full, tape around the cap or lid to make sure the cap or lid does not come off.
   - You should always check first with your healthcare provider for instructions on how to properly dispose of a filled disposal container. There may be special state and local laws for disposing of used needles and syringes, including autoinjectors. **Do not throw the disposal container in household trash. Do not recycle.**
   - **Always** keep the container out of the reach of children.

As with all medicines, you should keep Aranesp® out of the sight and reach of children.

General Information about Aranesp®

Doctors can prescribe medicines for conditions that are not in this leaflet. Use Aranesp® only for what your doctor prescribed. Do not give it to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet gives the most important information about Aranesp®. For more information, talk with your doctor or healthcare provider. You can also access more information at the following website: www.aranesp.com.

Active ingredient: darbepoetin alfa

Inactive ingredients: polysorbate solution or albumin solution

AMGEN®

Manufactured by:

Amgen Manufacturing, Limited, a subsidiary of Amgen Inc.
One Amgen Center Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91320-1799

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