

## Supporting material

**Supporting Table 1. Outcome definition and source of information. Mortality Information System (MIS) Hospital Information System (HIS).**

Outcome	Definition	Source
All-cause mortality	Yes/No	MIS
Blood transfusion	ICD9 (Procedure Codes): 99.0	HIS
Major Cardiovascular Events (MACE)	Acute myocardial infarction or cerebrovascular diseases or thrombosis. ICD9 (Diagnosis Codes): 410 or 430-438 or (444; 445; 451-453).	HIS
Blood Dyscrasias	Haemolytic anaemia or aplastic anaemia or other and unspecified anaemia. ICD9 (Diagnosis Codes): 283 or 284 or 285	HIS
Hypersensitivity reactions	ICD9 (Diagnosis Codes): 995.0; 995.2; 995.3.	HIS
Composite outcome	All-cause mortality or Blood transfusion or Acute myocardial infarction or cerebrovascular diseases or thrombosis.	MIS or HIS

**Supporting Table 2. Definition of confounders and source of information.**

Outcome	Definition	Source <sup>^</sup>	Confounding categories <sup>^^</sup>
Age	Age at prescription of ETP (mean, age-classes)	ETP	D
Gender		ETP	D
Baseline Hb levels	Expressed as g/dl and grouped in 4 classes (<8; 8-<10; 10-<11; ≥11)	ETP	RF
Special nutrition program	Yes/No	ETP	RF
Diabetes	ICD9: 250 or ATC=A10 or Allowance code=13	HIS, D&I	C
Hypertension	ICD9: 401-405	HIS	C
Heart diseases	ICD9: 420-429	HIS	C
<i>Arrhythmia</i>	ICD9: 426-427	HIS	C
<i>Heart failure</i>	ICD9: 428	HIS	C
Cerebrovascular Disease	ICD9: 430-438	HIS	C
Arterial and venousThrombosis	ICD9: 444; 445; 451-453	HIS	C
Hospital admissions	Number of hospitalizations in the previous 2 years	HIS	HC
EPT duration	Mean ETP duration in months	ETP	HC
ESA packages dispensed	Mean number of ESA packages dispensed per ETP	ETP	HC
DDD (Defined Daily Dose)	Mean DDD of ESA per ETP	ETP	HC

<sup>^</sup> Source of data: Electronic Therapeutic Plan (ETP); Hospital Information System (HIS); Drug Prescription & Clinical Investigation Databases (D&I). Medical history was retrieved up to 2 year before the ESA prescription (index date).

<sup>^^</sup> Confounding categories: Demographics (D); Risk Factor (RF); Comorbidity (C); Health care utilization (HC).

Supporting Table 3..Descriptive analysis of considered outcome events by setting and ESAs (biosimilars, epoetin alpha originator or other originators).

	Chronic kidney disease setting (n= 8161)				Oncology setting (n=5309)			
	Biosimilars epoetin alpha	Originator epoetin alpha	Other originators	Total	Biosimilars epoetin alpha	Originator epoetin alpha	Other originators	Total
	(n=154)	(n=1614)	(n=6393)		(n=453)	(n=1617)	(n=3239)	
	No. of events				No. of events			
<b>Composite outcome</b>	61	633	2198	2892	229	898	1620	2747
All-cause mortality	40	454	1517	2011	176	733	1223	2132
Blood transfusion	13	153	525	691	81	287	593	961
MACE	11	132	414	557	15	62	135	212
Blood dyscrasia	19	174	625	818	63	272	527	862
Haemolytic anaemia	1	1	2	4	2	2	6	10
Aplastic anaemia	1	11	32	44	10	41	80	131
Other anaemia	17	162	591	770	51	229	441	721
Hypersensitivity reactions	0	1	14	15	3	4	8	15

Supporting table 4. Descriptive analysis of considered outcome events in the CKD setting by ESAs (biosimilars, epoetin alpha originator or other originators), mean follow up, and incidence rate.

Chronic kidney disease setting (n= 8161)												
	Biosimilars epoetin alpha				Originator epoetin alpha				Other originators			
	n	Time of follow-up (days)	Mean Time of follow-up (months)	rate*100 person-year	n	Time of follow-up (days)	Mean Time of follow-up (months)	rate*100 person-year	n	Time of follow-up (days)	Mean Time of follow-up (months)	rate*100 person-year
	154	23809	4,2		1614	242319	4,1		6393	999519	4,3	
<b>Composite outcome</b>	61	21005	3,7	106	633	214353	3,6	108	2198	905675	3,9	89
All-cause mortality	40	23809	4,2	61	454	242319	4,1	68	1517	999519	4,3	55
Blood transfusion	13	22644	4,0	21	153	229593	3,9	24	525	956110	4,1	20
MACE	11	22634	4,0	18	132	232172	3,9	21	414	972267	4,2	16
Blood dyscrasia	19	21975	3,9	32	174	226803	3,8	28	625	944918	4,0	24
Hypersensitivity reactions	0	23809	4,2	0	1	242307	4,1	0	14	998169	4,3	1

**Supporting table 5. Descriptive analysis of considered outcome events in the oncology setting by ESAs (biosimilars, epoetin alpha originator or other originators), mean follow up, and incidence rate.**

Oncology setting (n=5309)												
	Biosimilars epoetin alpha				Originator epoetin alpha				Other originators			
	n	Time of follow-up (days)	mean Time of follow-up (months)	rate*100 person-year	n	Time of follow-up (days)	mean Time of follow-up (months)	rate*100 person-year	n	Time of follow-up (days)	mean Time of follow-up (months)	rate*100 person-year
	<b>453</b>	65018	3,9		<b>1617</b>	222860	3,8		<b>3239</b>	472891	4,0	
<b>Composite outcome</b>	229	55250	3,3	151	898	191002	3,2	172	1620	402294	3,4	147
All-cause mortality	176	65018	3,9	99	733	222860	3,8	120	1223	472891	4,0	94
Blood transfusion	81	58841	3,6	50	287	200464	3,4	52	593	425941	3,6	51
MACE	15	63744	3,9	9	62	219056	3,7	10	135	463378	3,9	11
Blood dyscrasia	63	58951	3,6	39	272	200889	3,4	49	527	428845	3,6	45
Hypersensitivity reactions	3	64714	3,9	2	4	222432	3,8	1	8	472045	4,0	1



Supplementary table 6. Descriptive analysis of considered outcome events in the oncology sub-setting by ESAs (biosimilars, epoetin alpha originator or other originators). The sub-setting included all the patients of the oncology cohort enrolled up to 30 June 2014 (n=4415), for which the causes of death were available.

**Biosimilars epoetin alpha vs Originator epoetin alpha**

<b>Death</b>	<b>Biosimilars epoetin alpha (N=315)</b>	<b>Originator epoetin alpha (N=1339)</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Death from tumours</b>	113 (35.85%)	561 (41.90%)	674
<b>Death from other causes</b>	3 (0.95%)	18 (1.34%)	21
<b>Total deaths</b>	116	579	695

**Biosimilars epoetin alpha vs Other originators**

<b>Death</b>	<b>Biosimilars epoetin alpha (N=315)</b>	<b>Other originators (N=2761)</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Death from tumours</b>	113 (35.85%)	940 (35.05%)	1053
<b>Death from other causes</b>	3 (0.95%)	46 (1.66%)	49
<b>Total deaths</b>	116	986	1102



Supplementary table 7. Comparison between the hazard ratios for the effectiveness and safety outcomes in the oncology overall cohort versus the sub-setting obtained through multivariate Cox proportional hazards regression analysis.

Multivariate Cox proportional hazards regression analysis								
Oncology setting								
Biosimilars epoetin alpha vs Originator epoetin alpha								
	Cohort enrollment period 1/1/2012 - 31/12/14 N=2070 (Biosimilars=453)				Cohort enrollment period 1/1/2012 - 30/06/14 N= 1654 (Biosimilars=315)			
	N	HR adj	LCI95%	UCI95%	N	HR adj	LCI95%	UCI95%
Composite outcome	1127	0,91	0,79	1,06	912	0,92	0,78	1,09
All-cause mortality	909	<b>0,82</b>	<b>0,70</b>	<b>0,97</b>	743	<b>0,81</b>	<b>0,67</b>	<b>0,98</b>
Blood transfusion	368	1,06	0,82	1,35	293	1,14	0,86	1,52
MACE	77	0,84	0,48	1,47	64	0,75	0,38	1,47
Blood dyscrasia	335	0,86	0,66	1,14	270	1,04	0,76	1,42
Biosimilars epoetin alpha vs Other originators								
	Cohort enrollment period 1/1/2012 - 31/12/14 N=3692 (Biosimilars=453)				Cohort enrollment period 1/1/2012 - 30/06/14 N= 3076 (Biosimilars=315)			
	N	HR adj	LCI95%	UCI95%	N	HR adj	LCI95%	UCI95%
Composite outcome	1849	1,01	0,88	1,16	1569	0,99	0,84	1,16
All-cause mortality	1399	1,01	0,86	1,18	1186	0,98	0,82	1,18
Blood transfusion	674	0,98	0,77	1,23	581	0,97	0,74	1,27
MACE	150	0,79	0,46	1,35	119	0,78	0,41	1,50
Blood dyscrasia	590	0,86	0,66	1,12	517	0,93	0,69	1,24

Supplementary table 8. Crude and adjusted HRs for the effectiveness and safety outcomes obtained by the multivariate analysis by settings.

	Chronic kidney disease setting (n= 8161)						Oncology setting (n=5309)					
	HR_crude	LCI95%	UCI95%	HR_adj	LCI95%	UCI95%	HR_crude	LCI95%	UCI95%	HR_adj	LCI95%	UCI95%
<b>Composite outcome</b>												
Epoetin alpha originator	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-
Epoetin alpha biosimilars	0,98	0,75	1,27	1,02	0,78	1,33	0,89	0,77	1,03	0,91	0,79	1,06
<b>All-cause mortality</b>												
Epoetin alpha originator	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-
Epoetin alpha biosimilars	0,90	0,65	1,24	0,92	0,67	1,28	0,82	0,70	0,97	0,82	0,70	0,97
<b>Blood transfusion</b>												
Epoetin alpha originator	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-
Epoetin alpha biosimilars	0,86	0,49	1,52	0,95	0,54	1,69	0,97	0,76	1,24	1,06	0,82	1,35
<b>MACE</b>												
Epoetin alpha originator	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-
Epoetin alpha biosimilars	0,85	0,46	1,58	0,92	0,49	1,70	0,84	0,48	1,47	0,84	0,48	1,47
<b>Blood dyscrasia</b>												
Epoetin alpha originator	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-
Epoetin alpha biosimilars	1,12	0,70	1,80	1,19	0,74	1,92	0,81	0,61	1,06	0,86	0,66	1,14
	HR_crude	LCI95%	UCI95%	HR_adj	LCI95%	UCI95%	HR_crude	LCI95%	UCI95%	HR_adj	LCI95%	UCI95%
<b>Composite outcome</b>												
Other originators	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-
Epoetin alpha biosimilars	1,18	0,91	1,52	1,09	0,85	1,41	1,03	0,89	1,18	1,01	0,88	1,16
<b>All-cause mortality</b>												
Other originators	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-
Epoetin alpha biosimilars	1,10	0,81	1,51	1,00	0,73	1,38	1,05	0,90	1,23	1,01	0,86	1,18
<b>Blood transfusion</b>												
Other originators	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-
Epoetin alpha biosimilars	1,04	0,60	1,80	0,99	0,57	1,71	0,98	0,78	1,24	0,98	0,77	1,23
<b>MACE</b>												

Other originators	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-
Epoetin alpha biosimilars	1,13	0,62	2,06	1,08	0,60	1,97	0,81	0,47	1,37	0,79	0,46	1,35
<b>Blood dyscrasia</b>												
Other originators	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-	1,00	-	-
Epoetin alpha biosimilars	1,29	0,82	2,03	1,26	0,80	1,99	0,86	0,67	1,12	0,86	0,66	1,12









**Supplementary table 10a.Oncology setting: predefined subgroup analyses for effectiveness and safety outcomes — Epoetin alpha biosimilars versus Epoetin alpha originator.**

Epoetin alpha biosimilars versus Epoetin alpha originator	Composite outcome				All-cause mortality				Blood transfusion				MACE				Blood dyscrasia			
	HR_adj	LCI95%	UCI95%	p-value	HR_adj	LCI95%	UCI95%	p-value	HR_adj	LCI95%	UCI95%	p-value	HR_adj	LCI95%	UCI95%	p-value	HR_adj	LCI95%	UCI95%	p-value
	0,91	0,79	1,06	0,2242	0,82	0,70	0,97	0,0209	1,06	0,82	1,35	0,6686	0,84	0,48	1,47	0,5335	0,86	0,66	1,14	0,2944
<b>Sex</b>																				
Male	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-
Female	0,83	0,74	0,93	0,0019	0,75	0,66	0,86	0,0000	0,99	0,80	1,21	0,8971	0,71	0,45	1,12	0,1415	1,08	0,87	1,34	0,5049
<b>Age (years)</b>																				
<45	0,81	0,59	1,09	0,1645	0,55	0,38	0,79	0,0014	1,33	0,79	2,26	0,2836	0,40	0,13	1,17	0,0925	1,48	0,89	2,47	0,1351
45-64	0,86	0,72	1,04	0,1223	0,78	0,64	0,96	0,0176	1,57	1,10	2,24	0,0123	0,35	0,19	0,67	0,0013	1,30	0,90	1,88	0,1618
64-84	0,88	0,74	1,04	0,1400	0,80	0,67	0,96	0,0182	1,18	0,84	1,66	0,3436	0,39	0,22	0,66	0,0006	1,13	0,80	1,61	0,4906
>84	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-
<b>Baseline Hb levels (g/dl)</b>																				
< 8	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-
8-10	0,73	0,59	0,91	0,0046	0,76	0,60	0,96	0,0205	0,53	0,39	0,73	0,0001					0,61	0,43	0,86	0,0054
10-11	0,42	0,24	0,72	0,0018	0,47	0,26	0,85	0,0119	0,13	0,03	0,52	0,0041					0,27	0,08	0,88	0,0302
≥11	0,53	0,21	1,30	0,1640	0,62	0,23	1,71	0,3583	0,23	0,03	1,68	0,1475					0,33	0,05	2,44	0,2788
<b>Number of hospitalizations in the previous 2 years</b>																				
0	0,47	0,39	0,57	0,0000	0,54	0,44	0,67	0,0000	0,53	0,38	0,73	0,0001	0,30	0,14	0,67	0,0030	0,38	0,26	0,54	0,0000
1	0,66	0,56	0,78	0,0000	0,72	0,60	0,87	0,0006	0,71	0,54	0,94	0,0156	0,55	0,30	0,99	0,0479	0,55	0,41	0,74	0,0001
2-3	0,78	0,67	0,92	0,0024	0,92	0,77	1,09	0,3216	0,66	0,50	0,87	0,0029	0,63	0,36	1,13	0,1204	0,62	0,47	0,82	0,0008
>3	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-
<b>Comorbidities</b>																				
Diabetes																				
Hypertension																				
Heartdiseases									2,19	1,46	3,29	0,0002								



<i>Arrythmia</i>									0,57	0,32	1,02	0,0601								
<i>Heartfailure</i>	1,55	1,07	2,24	0,0204	1,55	1,04	2,31	0,0298									2,59	1,52	4,39	0,0005
<i>CerebrovascularDisease</i>	1,27	0,97	1,66	0,0879																
<i>Arterial and venousThrombosis</i>	1,45	1,05	2,00	0,0234									3,65	1,67	7,99	0,0012				

**Supplementary table 10b. Oncology setting: predefined subgroup analyses for effectiveness and safety outcomes — Epoetin alpha biosimilars versus Other originators.**

Epoetin alpha biosimilars versus Other originators	Composite outcome				All-cause mortality				Blood transfusion				MACE				Blood dyscrasia				
	HR_adj	LCI95 %	UCI95 %	p-value	HR_adj	LCI95 %	UCI95 %	p-value	HR_adj	LCI95 %	UCI95 %	p-value	HR_adj	LCI95 %	UCI95 %	p-value	HR_adj	LCI95 %	UCI95 %	p-value	
	1,01	0,88	1,16	0,9252	1,01	0,86	1,18	0,9536	0,98	0,77	1,23	0,8328	0,79	0,46	1,35	0,3901	0,86	0,66	1,12	0,2676	
<b>Sex</b>																					
Male	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	
Female	0,67	0,61	0,74	0,0000	0,67	0,60	0,75	0,0000	0,66	0,57	0,77	0,0000	0,83	0,60	1,15	0,2561	0,76	0,65	0,90	0,0012	
<b>Age (years)</b>																					
<45	0,74	0,58	0,95	0,0178	0,46	0,34	0,64	0,0000	1,40	0,96	2,04	0,0778	0,54	0,22	1,30	0,1683	0,72	0,45	1,14	0,1602	
45-64	0,88	0,76	1,01	0,0688	0,73	0,62	0,87	0,0002	1,33	1,03	1,71	0,0268	0,46	0,27	0,77	0,0032	1,13	0,86	1,46	0,3811	
64-84	0,83	0,72	0,94	0,0043	0,82	0,71	0,95	0,0072	1,01	0,79	1,28	0,9627	0,82	0,54	1,25	0,3535	0,95	0,74	1,22	0,7017	
>84	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	
<b>Baseline Hb levels (g/dl)</b>																					
< 8	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	
8-10					0,87	0,69	1,10	0,2368													
10-11					0,54	0,33	0,89	0,0147													
≥11					1,80	0,78	4,14	0,1675													
<b>Number of hospitalizations in the previous 2 years</b>																	0,486	0,374	0,633	0	
0	0,63	0,54	0,73	0,0000	0,76	0,64	0,90	0,0013	0,65	0,51	0,83	0,0006									
1	0,62	0,54	0,71	0,0000	0,69	0,59	0,81	0,0000	0,64	0,52	0,80	0,0001					0,48	0,38	0,61	0,0000	
2-3	0,83	0,73	0,94	0,0037	0,88	0,76	1,02	0,0925	0,85	0,69	1,04	0,1145					0,83	0,68	1,03	0,0869	
>3	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	1,00	-	-	-	
<b>Comorbidities</b>																					
Diabetes																					
Hypertension																					
Heartdiseases																					
Arrythmia																					

<i>Heartfailure</i>	1,37	1,02	1,84	0,0340					1,79	1,15	2,79	0,0098					1,72	1,09	2,70	0,0200
Cerebrovascular Disease	1,37	1,11	1,68	0,0029	1,34	1,06	1,70	0,0132					2,54	1,46	4,42	0,0010				
Arterial and venousThrombosis	1,46	1,14	1,87	0,0027	1,61	1,22	2,13	0,0008	1,43	0,95	2,16	0,0868	2,36	1,15	4,83	0,0188				

**Supplementary table 11. Patients characteristics after genetic matching by settings and ESAs (biosimilars, epoetin alpha originator or other originators).**

	Genetic matched chronic kidney disease setting (n= 462)					Genetic matched oncology setting (n=1359)				
	Biosimilars epoetin alpha	Originator epoetin alpha	Other originators	p value Biosimilar vs originator epoetin alpha	p value Biosimilars vs other originators	Biosimilars epoetin alpha	Originator epoetin alpha	Other originators	p value Biosimilar vs originator epoetin alpha	p value Biosimilars vs other originators
	N	N	N			N	N	N		
	154	154	154			453	453	453		
<b>Sex</b>				0,8192	1,0000				1,0000	0,9470
Male	84	82	84			233	233	232		
Female	70	72	70			220	220	221		
<b>Age* (years)</b>				0,9995	1,0000					
<45	2	2	2			20	20	21	0,9999	0,9979
45-64	9	9	9			126	125	126		
64-84	54	53	54			226	227	224		
>84	89	90	89			81	81	82		
<i>Mean (SD)</i>	79.2 (10.2)	79.5 (11.6)	79.6 (12.6)	0,7944	0,7428	68.5 (11.9)	68.3 (12.2)	68.0(12.5)	0,7529	0,4612
<b>Baseline Hb levels (g/dl)*</b>				0,9702	1,0000				1,0000	1,0000
< 8	10	8	10			29	29	29		
8-10	92	94	92			409	409	409		
10-11	50	50	50			12	12	12		
≥11	2	2	2			3	3	3		
<i>Mean (SD)</i>	9.3 (1.3)	9.3 (0.9)	9.3 (1.1)	0,8799	0,8803	9.0 (0.8)	9.0 (0.8)	9.0 (0.7)	0,8629	0,8513
<b>Other ETP active*</b>										
Special nutrition program	9	8	9	0,8030	1,0000					
<b>Comorbidities in the previous 2 y.</b>										
Diabetes	69	68	69	0,9087	1,0000	101	99	102	0,8727	0,9365
Hypertension	50	51	50	0,9034	1,0000	82	82	82	1,0000	1,0000
Heart diseases	75	75	74	1,0000	0,9092	33	33	33	1,0000	1,0000
<i>Arrythmia</i>	39	39	40	1,0000	0,8962	20	20	20	1,0000	1,0000

<i>Heart failure</i>	55	54	54	0,9051	0,9051		7	7	7	1,0000	1,0000
Cerebrovascular Disease	21	19	21	0,7346	1,0000		14	13	14	0,8451	1,0000
Arterial and venous Thrombosis	1	1	1	1,0000	1,0000		8	8	8	1,0000	1,0000
<b>Number of hospitalizations in the previous 2 years</b>				0,9951	0,9983					1,0000	0,9997
0	42	40	41				102	102	102		
1	43	44	43				134	134	134		
2-3	48	49	48				144	144	145		
>3	21	21	22				73	73	72		

