

Legacy Direct Thrombin Inhibitors (Desirudin, Lepirudin, Fondaparinux) — Rollup Reference

CARECOST ESTIMATE · BILLING CHEAT SHEET

⚠️ FONDAPARINUX (Arixtra, J1652) is CONTRAINDICATED in active HIT — switch to argatroban (J0883/J0884) or bivalirudin (J0583)

Anchor: Desirudin J0838 (per 1 mg) **Admin:** 96372 SC; historical 96365/96366 IV (lepirudin) **ASP:** Q2 2026 (J1652 live; J0838 verify MAC)

Reviewed: May 22, 2026

HCPCS & PER-UNIT REFERENCE

DRUG	HCPCS	PER UNIT	Q2 26 ASP+6%
Desirudin (Iprivask)	J0838	1 mg	Verify MAC (not in CMS ASP)
Lepirudin (Refludan)	<i>withdrawn 4/2012</i>	50 mg vial (hist.)	n/a — not in distribution
Fondaparinux (Arixtra)	J1652	0.5 mg	\$0.797 / unit

J1652 unit = 0.5 mg, NOT 1 mg. 2.5 mg dose = 5 units; 5 mg = 10; 7.5 mg = 15; 10 mg = 20.

ICD-10 — PER DRUG

CODE	FOR
D75.82	HIT — desirudin off-label HIT-hx; lepirudin (hist). NEVER pair with J1652.
Z86.79	HIT history (substantiate desirudin off-label use)
Z51.81	Therapeutic drug monitoring encounter
Z47.1 / Z96.64x	Post-hip-replacement (desirudin on-label)
I26.x	PE (fondaparinux tx)
I82.4xxx	DVT LE (fondaparinux tx)
D69.5	Secondary thrombocytopenia (lepirudin hist)
S72.xxx	Hip fracture (fondaparinux extended prophylaxis)
Z79.01	Long-term anticoagulant use

DOSING — THE HIGH-FREQUENCY REGIMENS

DRUG / INDICATION	DOSE	DURATION
Desirudin — elective hip replacement DVT prophylaxis	15 mg SC q12h	9-12 days
Desirudin — CrCl 31-60	5 mg SC q12h	9-12 days
Desirudin — CrCl < 31	1.7 mg SC q12h	9-12 days
Lepirudin — HIT (historical)	0.15 mg/kg/hr IV titrated; max 16.5 mg/hr	per protocol — <i>n/a post-2012</i>
Fondaparinux — VTE prophylaxis	2.5 mg SC daily (= 5 units)	5-9 days (24-32 for hip fx)
Fondaparinux — tx, < 50 kg	5 mg SC daily (= 10 units)	5+ days bridge
Fondaparinux — tx, 50-100 kg	7.5 mg SC daily (= 15 units)	5+ days bridge
Fondaparinux — tx, > 100 kg	10 mg SC daily (= 20 units)	5+ days bridge

TOP 4 DENIALS

- Fondaparinux billed for HIT (J1652 + D75.82) — CONTRAINDICATED;** switch to argatroban or bivalirudin
- Desirudin (J0838) step therapy from DOAC not documented — submit HIT-hx or DOAC-intol chart
- Lepirudin attempted on current claim — drug withdrawn April 2012; switch to argatroban
- Desirudin for HIT-hx post-ortho prophylaxis without HIT documentation — add Z86.79 + prior PF4 ELISA

PATIENT ASSISTANCE

- Bausch Health PAP (Iprivask / desirudin):** 800-321-4576 · uninsured / underinsured ~≈ 400% FPL
- Mylan Cares (Arixtra branded):** 800-796-9526
- Generic fondaparinux:** low cash price + GoodRx; nominal Part D copays
- Lepirudin:** N/A — product withdrawn
- Foundation backup: PAN / HealthWell / PAF (verify fund status)

DOAC DISPLACEMENT (~2014)

- Apixaban (Eliquis), rivaroxaban (Xarelto), dabigatran (Pradaxa)** displaced parenteral DTIs for general VTE prophylaxis / treatment
- Oral + no monitoring + fixed dose → collapsed desirudin post-discharge market
- Parenteral DTI use compressed back to inpatient acute HIT (argatroban / bivalirudin) + cath lab

ACTIVE HIT USE LIVES ON DEDICATED PAGES

- Argatroban (J0883 / J0884):** continuous IV titrated to aPTT 1.5-3x baseline, max 100 sec. First-line HIT. → [/drugs/argatroban](#)
- Bivalirudin (J0583):** PCI in HIT; OPSS SI=N packaged + DRG-bundled. Defensive content. → [/drugs/bivalirudin](#)

SITE OF CARE & ADMIN CODES

SETTING	POS	NOTES
Inpatient post-orthopedic	21	DRG-bundled (desirudin initiation)
Observation HOPD	22	J0838 / J1652 separately billable + 96372
SNF	31 / 32	Bundle status applies
Home self-injection	12	Pharmacy benefit (Part D / PBM), NOT medical-benefit J-code

CPT	FOR
96372	Desirudin SC + fondaparinux SC (primary)
96365 / 96366	Historical lepirudin IV only (pre-2012)
96413	Wrong — none of these is chemo

The CONTRAINDICATION: Fondaparinux (Arixtra, J1652) is contraindicated in active HIT per FDA label and CHEST/ACCP guidelines. Mechanism is Xa inhibition (NOT a DTI) — commonly confused. Switch HIT patients to **argatroban** (J0883/J0884) or **bivalirudin** (J0583).

Three rollout caveats: (1) Lepirudin withdrawn US market April 2012 — not orderable. (2) Desirudin J0838 not in CMS public ASP file — verify MAC. (3) Outpatient SC self-injection routes to pharmacy benefit, not medical-benefit J-code.