

This guideline may contain custom content that has been modified from the MCG care guidelines and has not been reviewed or approved by MCG Health.

** Please note: Alignment's policy is to make decisions on coverage based on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regulations and guidance, benefit plan documents and contracts, and the member's medical history and condition. If CMS does not have a position addressing a service, Alignment makes coverage decisions based on Alignment's or the delegator's policy. Benefits may vary based on contract, and individual member benefits must be verified. Alignment determines medical necessity if the benefit exists and no contract exclusions are applicable. Although Alignment's policy is consistent with CMS's regulations and guidance, their payment methodology may differ from Medicare. Alignment reserves the right to reimburse the most cost effective durable medical equipment item that is appropriate to the member's medical needs and condition. The decision is based on the member's current medical condition*

AHC Ranibizumab

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MCG Health
Ambulatory Care
28th Edition

[Link to Codes](#)

- Clinical Indications
- Evidence Summary
- Application
- Committee Approval
- Policy Revision History
- References
- Footnotes
- Codes

Clinical Indications

- Ranibizumab (Lucentis, Byooviz, and/or Cimerli) may be indicated when **ALL** of the following are present :
 - Age 18 years or older
 - Eye condition appropriate for ranibizumab treatment, as indicated by **1 or more** of the following:
 - Diabetic macular edema
 - Diabetic retinopathy
 - Macular edema following retinal vein occlusion
 - Myopic choroidal neovascularization
 - Neovascular (wet, or exudative) age-related macular degeneration
 - Polypoid choroidal vasculopathy with active juxtafoveal or subfoveal lesions and **ALL** of the following:
 - Diagnosis of polypoid choroidal vasculopathy and **1 or more** of the following:
 - Fluorescein angiography results show leakage at retinal pigment epithelium.
 - Pigment epithelium detachment
 - Subretinal or intraretinal fluid
 - Subretinal hemorrhage or sub-retinal pigment epithelium hemorrhage
 - Vision loss attributable to polypoid choroidal vasculopathy
 - Concurrent administration with verteporfin photodynamic therapy
 - No concurrent ocular or periocular infection
 - Member has had failed prior therapy with, contraindication to, or intolerance of bevacizumab [A]

Evidence Summary

Lucentis and Cimerli (biosimilar to Lucentis) are vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitors indicated for the following uses:(1)
(2)

- Diabetic macular edema
- Diabetic retinopathy
- Macular edema following retinal vein occlusion
- Myopic choroidal neovascularization
- Neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration.

Byooviz (biosimilar to Lucentis) is indicated for the following uses:(3)

- Macular edema following retinal vein occlusion
- Myopic choroidal neovascularization
- Neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration.

Other Uses with Supportive Evidence

Overproduction of VEGF may lead to other eye conditions, including neovascular glaucoma, retinopathy of prematurity, and other retinal and choroidal neovascular conditions affecting the eye. The VEGF inhibitors also have the potential to be used off-label and reduce vision loss associated with other eye conditions related to increased VEGF production. The use of anti-VEGF agents have been shown to stop the angiogenic process and maintain visual acuity and improve vision in patients with certain neovascular ophthalmic conditions; therefore, research is rapidly evolving on the use of VEGF inhibitors in other neovascular ophthalmic conditions which threaten vision. Anti-VEGF therapy has the potential to be used off-label in other neovascular conditions affecting the eye and may prevent or slow visual impairment.(4)(5)(6)(7)

Application

- This policy applies to the following states: Arizona, California, Nevada, North Carolina, and Texas.
- Please refer to the CMS website for the most current applicable National Coverage Determination (NCD)/ Local Coverage Determination (LCD)/Local Coverage Article (LCA)/CMS Online Manual System/Transmittals.

Committee Approval

- 01/09/2024, 02/20/2025

Policy Revision History

- 5/26/2022: Creation date
- 10/5/2023, 12/5/2023: Revision
- 11/12/2024: Annual review, Applicable states updated, Florida removed

References

1. Lucentis® intravitreal injection [prescribing information]. South San Francisco, CA: Genentech; October 2020. [Context Link 1]
2. Cimerli™ intravitreal injection [prescribing information]. Redwood City, CA: Coherus; October 2022. [Context Link 1]
3. Byooviz™ intravitreal injection [prescribing information]. Cambridge, MA: Biogen; September 2022 [Context Link 1]
4. Barakat MR, Kaiser PK. VEGF inhibitors for the treatment of neovascular age-related macular degeneration. Expert Opin Investig Drugs. 2009; 18(5):637-646. [Context Link 1]
5. Kinnunen K, Ylä-Herttuala S. Vascular endothelial growth factors in retinal and choroidal neovascular diseases. Ann Med. 2012; 44(1):1-17. [Context Link 1]
6. Horsley MB, Kahook MY. Anti-VEGF therapy for glaucoma. Curr Opin Ophthalmol. 2010; 21(2):112-117 [Context Link 1]
7. Tolentino M. Systemic and ocular safety of intravitreal anti-VEGF therapies for ocular neovascular disease. Surv Ophthalmol. 2011; 56(2):95-113 [Context Link 1]

Footnotes

[A] Step therapy requirement does not apply if the request is a continuation of prior therapy within the past 365 days. [A in Context Link 1]

Codes

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HCPCS: J2778, J2779, Q5124, Q5128

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