Clinical Policy: Ranibizumab (Lucentis)
Reference Number: CP.PHAR.186
Effective Date: 03.16
Last Review Date: 02.19
Line of Business: Commercial, Medicaid, HIM-Medical Benefit

See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description
Ranibizumab (Lucentis®) is a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitor.

FDA Approved Indication(s)
Lucentis is indicated for the treatment of:
- Neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (AMD)
- Macular edema following retinal vein occlusion (RVO)
- Diabetic macular edema (DME)
- Diabetic retinopathy (DR)
- Myopic choroidal neovascularization (mCNV)

Policy/Criteria
Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation® that Lucentis is medically necessary when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria
   A. Ophthalmic Disease (must meet all):
      1. Diagnosis of one of the following (a, b, c, d, or e):
         a. Neovascular (wet) AMD;
         b. Macular edema following RVO;
         c. DME;
         d. DR;
         e. mCNV;
      2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an ophthalmologist;
      3. Age ≥ 18 years;
      4. Failure of intravitreal bevacizumab, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;
         *Prior authorization is required for bevacizumab
      5. Dose does not exceed:
         a. DME and DR: 0.3 mg per month;
         b. AMD, RVO, and mCNV: 0.5 mg per month.

Approval duration:
- mCNV: 3 months
- All other indications: 6 months
B. Other diagnoses/indications
   1. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.CPA.09 for commercial and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid and HIM-Medical Benefit.

II. Continued Therapy
   A. Ophthalmic Disease (must meet all):
      1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
      2. Member is responding positively to therapy as evidenced by one of the following (a, b, c, or d):
         a. Detained neovascularization;
         b. Improvement in visual acuity;
         c. Maintenance of corrected visual acuity from prior treatment;
         d. Supportive findings from optical coherence tomography or fluorescein angiography;
      3. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed:
         a. DME and DR: 0.3 mg per month;
         a. AMD, RVO, and mCNV: 0.5 mg per month.
   
   Approval duration:
   mCNV: 3 months
   All other indications: 6 months

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):
   1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy.
      Approval duration: Duration of request or 6 months (whichever is less); or
   2. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.CPA.09 for commercial and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid and HIM-Medical Benefit.

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:
   A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policies – CP.CPA.09 for commercial and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid and HIM-Medical Benefit, or evidence of coverage document.

IV. Appendices/General Information
   Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key
   AMD: age-related macular degeneration  
   DME: diabetic macular edema 
   DR: diabetic retinopathy 
   FDA: Food and Drug Administration
   mCNV: myopic choroidal neovascularization 
   RVO: retinal vein occlusion 
   VEGF: vascular endothelial growth factor
**Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives**

This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may not be a formulary agent and may require prior authorization.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Name</th>
<th>Dosing Regimen</th>
<th>Dose Limit/Maximum Dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avastin® (bevacizumab), Mvasi™ (bevacizumab-awwb)</td>
<td>Neovascular (wet) AMD: 1.25 to 2.5 mg administered by intravitreal injection every 4 weeks</td>
<td>2.5 mg/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Neovascular glaucoma: 1.25 mg administered by intravitreal injection every 4 weeks</td>
<td>1.25 mg/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Macular edema secondary to RVO: 1 mg to 2.5 mg administered by intravitreal injection every 4 weeks</td>
<td>2.5 mg/month</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DR: 1.25 mg administered by intravitreal injection every 6 weeks</td>
<td>1.25 mg/6 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DME: 1.25 mg administered by intravitreal injection every 6 weeks</td>
<td>1.25 mg/6 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>mCNV: 0.05 mL initial intravitreal injection, followed by monthly evaluation for additional injections as needed</td>
<td>0.5 mL/month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name® (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name®) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.

**Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings**

- **Contraindication(s):**
  - In patients with ocular or periocular infections
  - In patients with known hypersensitivity to ranibizumab or any of the excipients in Lucentis. Hypersensitivity reactions may manifest as severe intraocular inflammation
- **Boxed warning(s):** none reported

**Appendix D: General Information**

- In the Comparison of AMD Treatments Trials study, the difference in mean visual acuity improvement for patients treated with Avastin compared to Lucentis was -1.4 letters (95% [CI],-3.7 to 0.8) at two years. The proportion of patients with arteriothrombotic events was similar in the Lucentis-treated patients (4.7%) compared to the Avastin-treated patients (5.0%; p=0.89). The proportion of patients with one or more systemic serious adverse events was higher with Avastin (39.9%) than Lucentis (31.7%; adjusted risk ratio, 1.30; 95% CI, 1.07-1.57; p = 0.009). Serious systemic adverse events included all-cause mortality, non-fatal stroke, non-fatal myocardial infarction, vascular death, venous thrombotic events and hypertension.
• In the ANti-VEGF Antibody for the Treatment of Predominantly Classic CHORoidal Neovascularisation in AMD (ANCHOR) trial, the number of patients that lost fewer than 15 letters at 12 months was achieved by 96.4% of patients treated with Lucentis 0.5 mg compared to 64.3% of patients treated with Visudyne (p < 0.001). Rate of intraocular inflammation was higher for patients treated with Lucentis 0.5 mg at 15% compared to Visudyne at 2.8%.

• In the VEGF Trap-Eye: Investigation of Efficacy and Safety in Wet Age-Related Macular Degeneration (VIEW)-1 trial, the difference in the number of patients who lost fewer than 15 letters at 52 weeks between Eylea every 8 weeks compared to Lucentis was 0.6% (95.1% CI -0.32, 4.4). In terms of the number of patients who gained at least 15 letters, the mean difference between Eylea every 8 weeks was 6.6% (95.1% CI -1.0, 14.1). There were no adverse events that were found to be significant from the Lucentis arm.

• In a trial comparing Eylea, Avastin and Lucentis, the Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research Network found in patients with diabetic macular edema that when the initial visual-acuity letter score was 78 to 69 (equivalent to approximately 20/32 to 20/40) (51% of participants), the mean improvement was 8.0 with Eylea, 7.5 with Avastin, and 8.3 with Lucentis (p > 0.50 for each pair wise comparison). When the initial letter score was less than 69 (approximately 20/50 or worse), the mean improvement was 18.9 with Eylea, 11.8 with Avastin, and 14.2 with Lucentis (P<0.001 for Eylea vs. Avastin, p = 0.003 for Eylea vs. Lucentis, and p = 0.21 for Lucentis vs. Avastin).

V. Dosage and Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indication</th>
<th>Dosing Regimen</th>
<th>Maximum Dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neovascular (wet) AMD</td>
<td>0.5 mg (0.05 mL) administered by intravitreal injection once a month.</td>
<td>0.5 mg/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alternative dosing: Once monthly injections for three months followed by 4-5 doses dispersed among the following 9 months; or treatment may be reduced to one injection every 3 months after the first four injections if monthly injections are not feasible.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macular edema following RVO</td>
<td>0.5 mg (0.05 mL) administered by intravitreal injection once a month.</td>
<td>0.5 mg/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DME and DR with or without DME</td>
<td>0.3 mg (0.05 mL) administered by intravitreal injection once a month.</td>
<td>0.3 mg/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mCNV</td>
<td>0.5 mg (0.05 mL) administered by intravitreal injection once a month for up to 3 months. Patients may be retreated if needed.</td>
<td>0.5 mg/month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VI. Product Availability

• Single-use prefilled syringes: 0.3 mg/0.05 mL, 0.5 mg/0.05 mL
• Single-use glass vials: 0.3 mg/0.05 mL, 0.5 mg/0.05 mL
VII. References


Coding Implications

Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HCPCS Codes</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>P&amp;T Approval Date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J2778</td>
<td>Injection, ranibizumab, 0.1 mg</td>
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<tr>
<td>C9233</td>
<td>Injection, ranibizumab, 0.5 mg</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Medicaid: Policy converted to new template and split from CP.PHAR.39 AMD Retinal Disorder Treatments. Criteria: added age and max dose; monotherapy defined as “other anti-VEGF drugs” since Visudyne is sometimes used with anti-VEGF drugs in nonresponsive cases; removed requests for documentation.
Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>P&amp;T Approval Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid: Removed age restriction. Added new FDA-approved indication, mCNV; approval periods are set at 3 months. Removed hypersensitivity safety criteria. Modified “once a month” to “every 28 days.” For re-auth: modified “Currently receiving…” to “Previously received…”; modified documentation of positive response criterion to be open-ended; added criterion to verify that Lucentis is not being used with other anti-VEGF therapies.</td>
<td>03.17</td>
<td>03.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1Q18 annual review: Policy combined for Medicaid and commercial; Added fluorescein angiography as an acceptable documentation for positive response to therapy; Medicaid: Added specialist requirement, Removed criteria checking for contraindications (ocular infections) due to its ophthalmic nature and addition of specialist requirement, Moved initial and continued therapy criterion “not used concomitantly with other VEGF therapies” to section III. Diagnoses/indications NOT authorized. Added bevacizuamb redirection, Added age limit; References reviewed and updated</td>
<td>11.28.17</td>
<td>02.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1Q 2019 annual review: reduced approval durations from length of benefit to 3 months for mCNV and 6 months for all other indications; removed section III: concomitant use with other anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) medications; references reviewed and updated.</td>
<td>11.20.18</td>
<td>02.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No significant changes; added HIM-Medical Benefit line of business.</td>
<td>06.25.19</td>
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</table>

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

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**Note: For Medicaid members,** when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

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