

TITLE:	VASCULAR ENDOTHELIAL GROWTH FACTOR INHIBITORS FOR OCULAR INDICATIONS POLICY
POLICY #:	MM-PNP-020
VERSION #:	01
DEPARTMENT:	UTILIZATION REVIEW
ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE:	10/01/2023
CURRENT REVISION DATE:	N/A

1. PURPOSE

Brand Selection for Medically Necessary Indications

As defined in Curative commercial policies, health care services are not medically necessary when they are more costly than alternative services that are at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results. Aylmsys Eylea, Lucentis, Mvasi (and others not listed here) are more costly to Curative than other vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitors. There is a lack of reliable evidence that Aylmsys Eylea, Lucentis, Mvasi (and others not listed here) are superior to the lower cost VEGF inhibitor: Avastin (bevacizumab), Cimerli and Byovois for the medically necessary indications listed in the policy below.

Therefore, Curative only considers Avastin a preferred agent for the following medically necessary indications:

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

Preferred Anti-VEGF Agents:

- a. Avastin, then
- b. Cimerli and Byoviz biosimilar for Lucentis only AFTER a trial/failure of Avastin

All other agents are non-preferred

2. SCOPE

Pharmacy and Medical UM Departments

3. DEFINITIONS

N/A

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

N/A

5. POLICY

Note: Requires Prior Approval:

Intravitreal bevacizumab (Avastin).

Criteria for Initial Approval

Curative considers intravitreal Avastin (bevacizumab), Cimerli, and Byooviz medically necessary for treatment of the following retinal disorders:

- Diabetic macular edema (DME)
- Neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (AMD);
- Macular edema following retinal vein occlusion (RVO)
- Proliferative diabetic retinopathy;
- Choroidal neovascularization (CNV) (including myopic choroidal neovascularization (mCNV), angioid streaks, choroiditis [including choroiditis secondary to ocular histoplasmosis], idiopathic degenerative myopia, retinal dystrophies, rubeosis iridis, pseudoxanthoma elasticum, and trauma);
- Neovascular glaucoma (NVG);
- Retinopathy of prematurity (RoP);
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy (PCV).

Curative considers all other indications as experimental and investigational.

Continuation of Therapy

Curative considers continuation of Avastin (bevacizumab), Cimerli, and Byooviz medically necessary for an indication outlined in Section I for members who have demonstrated a positive clinical response to therapy (e.g., improvement or maintenance in best corrected visual acuity [BCVA] or visual field, or a reduction in the rate of vision decline or the risk of more severe vision loss).

Note: Concurrent use of more than one VEGF inhibitor in the same eye is considered experimental and investigational because the safety and effectiveness of combinational use of VEGF inhibitors for ocular indications has not been established.

6. PROCEDURE

N/A

7. TRAINING REQUIREMENT

- 7.1. All Curative Medical and Pharmacy UM associates are responsible for reading and comprehending this procedure. Employees are also responsible for contacting management or Privacy and Compliance with any questions or concerns regarding the information contained within this procedure.

8. ENFORCEMENT

Violations of this controlled document will cause the imposition of sanctions in accordance with the Curative sanctions-controlled document. This may include verbal/written warning, suspension, up to termination of employment or volunteer, intern, contractor status with Curative. Additional civil, criminal, and equitable remedies may apply.

9. DOCUMENTATION

N/A

10. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS

N/A

11. COLLABORATING DEPARTMENTS

11.1. Medical and Pharmacy UM Departments

12. DOCUMENT CONTROL

APPROVED BY:		
(Printed Name)	(Date)	(Signature)

REVISION HISTORY			
Date	Author	Version	Comments
			Initial Version

APPENDICES

Any applicable attachments, resources or other materials should be included as appendices in this section. Label each appendix as follows:

Appendix A: