Clinical Policy: Verteporfin (Visudyne)

Reference Number: LA.PHAR.187
Effective Date:
Last Review Date: 06.21 — **Coding Implications**
Line of Business: Medicaid — **Revision Log**

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

Description

Verteporfin (Visudyne®) is a light activated drug used in photodynamic therapy.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Visudyne is indicated for the treatment of patients with predominantly classic subfoveal choroidal neovascularization (CNV) due to:

- **Age-related macular degeneration (AMD)**
- **Pathologic myopia**
- **Presumed ocular histoplasmosis**

Limitation(s) of use: There is insufficient evidence to indicate Visudyne for the treatment of predominantly occult subfoveal CNV.

Policy/Criteria

Prior authorization is required. 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 Louisiana Healthcare Connections that Visudyne is medically necessary when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Choroidal Neovascularization (must meet all):

1. **Diagnosis of subfoveal CNV due to one of the following (a, b, or c):**
   a. **AMD;**
   b. **Pathologic myopia;**
   c. **Presumed ocular histoplasmosis;**
2. **Prescribed by or in consultation with an ophthalmologist;**
3. **Age ≥ 18 years;**
4. **For AMD, member meets one of the following (a or b):**
   a. **Member must use bevacizumab intravitreal solution, unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced;**
      Prior authorization may be required for bevacizumab intravitreal solution. Requests for IV formulations of Avastin, Mvasi, and Zirabev will not be approved
   b. **Disease has progressed after use of a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) as first-line treatment;**

5. **For CNV due to pathologic myopia, failure of intravitreal Avastin or Lucentis®, unless clinically significant adverse effects are experienced or both are contraindicated;**
   Prior authorization may be required for Avastin and Lucentis
6. **Dose does not exceed 6 mg/m^2 body surface area.**

Approval duration:
Medicaid – 3 months (1 dose)

B. Other diagnoses/indications
1. **Refer to the off-label use policy if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): LA.PMN.53 for Medicaid.**

II. Continued Therapy

A. Choroidal Neovascularization (must meet all):
1. **Currently receiving medication via Louisiana Healthcare Connections 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. **Recent fluorescein angiography, conducted at least 3 months after the last treatment, shows recurrent or persistent choroidal neovascular leakage;**
4. **If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 6 mg/m^2 body surface area.**

Approval duration:
Medicaid – 3 months (1 dose)

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):
1. **Currently receiving medication via Louisiana Healthcare Connections 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 if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): LA.PMN.53 for Medicaid.**

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 policy –LA.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

AMD: age-related macular degeneration
CNV: choroidal neovascularization
mCNV: myopic choroidal neovascularization
FDA: Food and Drug Administration

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may require prior authorization.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
Bevacizumab (Avastin®)	Neovascular (wet) AMD: 1.25 to 2.5 mg administered by intravitreal injection every 4 weeks	2.5 mg/month
	mCNV: 0.05 mL initial intravitreal injection, followed by monthly evaluation for additional injections as needed	0.5 mL/month
Beovu® (brolucizumab)	Neovascular (wet) AMD: 6 mg (1 via) administered by intravitreal injection every 4 weeks for the first 3 months, then every 8 or 12 weeks thereafter	6 mg (1 vial) every 2 months after loading period
Eylea® (aflibercept)	Neovascular (wet) AMD: 2 mg (0.05 mL) administered by intravitreal injection once a month for 3 months then 2mg every 2 months.	2 mg/month
Lucentis® (ranibizumab)	Neovascular (wet) AMD: 0.5 mg (0.05 mL) administered by intravitreal injection once a month. 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.	0.5 mg/month
	Myopic CNV: 0.5 mg (0.05 mL) administered by intravitreal injection once a month for up to	0.5 mg/month

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
	3 months. Patients may be retreated if needed.	
Macugen® (pegaptanib)	Neovascular (wet) AMD: 0.3 mg (0.09 mL) administered by intravitreal injection every 6 weeks	0.3 mg/6 weeks

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):
  - Porphyria
  - Hypersensitivity
- Boxed warning(s): none reported

Appendix D: General Information

- 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 RADIANCE, a Phase III, 12-month, multicenter, randomized, double-masked, active-controlled trial, Lucentis was compared to vPDT (Visudyne and photodynamic therapy) for the treatment of mCNV. Lucentis treatment in groups I and II was superior to vPDT based on mean average BCVA change from baseline to month 1 through month 3 (group I: +10.5, group II: +10.6 vs. group III: +2.2 Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study [ETDRS] letters; both $p < 0.0001$). Lucentis treatment guided by disease activity was noninferior to VA stabilization-guided retreatment based on mean average BCVA change from baseline to month 1 through month 6 (group II: +11.7 vs. group I: +11.9 ETDRS letters; $p < 0.00001$). Mean BCVA change from baseline to month 12 was +13.8 (group I), +14.4 (group II), and +9.3 ETDRS letters (group III). At month 12, 63.8% to 65.7% of patients showed resolution of myopic CNV leakage. Patients received a median of 4.0 (group I) and 2.0 (groups II and III) ranibizumab injections over 12 months. No deaths or cases of endophthalmitis and myocardial infarction occurred.

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Predominantly classic subfoveal CNV due to AMD, pathologic myopia or presumed ocular histoplasmosis	6 mg/m^2 IV diluted with 5% dextrose to a final volume of 30 mL infused over 10 minutes	6 mg/m^2 IV

VI. Product Availability

Vial for reconstitution: 15 mg (2 mg/mL after reconstitution)

VII. References

1. **Visudyne Prescribing Information. Bridgewater, NJ: Valeant Ophthalmics; February 2017. Available at: www.visudyne.com. Accessed September 17, 2020.**
2. **American Academy of Ophthalmology Retina/Vitreous Panel. Preferred Practice Pattern® Guidelines. Age-Related Macular Degeneration. San Francisco, CA: American Academy of Ophthalmology; October 2019. Available at: www.aao.org/ppp. Accessed September 17, 2020.**
3. **Diaz RI, Sigler EJ, Rafieetary MR, Calzada JI. Ocular histoplasmosis syndrome. *Surv Ophthalm*. 2015; 60(4): 279-295.**
4. **Wolf S, Valciuniene VJ, Laganovska G, et al. RADIANCE: a randomized controlled study of ranibizumab in patients with choroidal neovascularization secondary to pathologic myopia. *Ophthalmology*. 2014; 121(3):682-92.e2. doi: 10.1016/j.ophtha.2013.10.023. Epub 2013 Dec 8.**

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.

HCPCS Codes	Description
J3396	Injection, verteporfin, 0.1 mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date
Converted corporate to local policy	06.2021

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. LHCC makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any

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