

**Clinical Policy: Ranibizumab (Byooviz, Lucentis, Susvimo)**

Reference Number: CP.PHAR.186

Effective Date: 03.01.16

Last Review Date: 02.22

Line of Business: Commercial, HIM, Medicaid

[Coding Implications](#)[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

**Description**

Ranibizumab (Lucentis<sup>®</sup>, Susvimo<sup>™</sup>) and ranibizumab-nuna (Byooviz<sup>™</sup>) are vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitors.

**FDA Approved Indication(s)**

Byooviz is indicated for the treatment of:

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

Lucentis is indicated for the treatment of:

- Neovascular (wet) AMD
- Macular edema following RVO
- Diabetic macular edema (DME)
- Diabetic retinopathy (DR)
- mCNP

Susvimo is indicated for the treatment of patients with neovascular (wet) AMD who have previously responded to at least two intravitreal injections of a VEGF inhibitor.

**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<sup>®</sup> that Byooviz, Lucentis, and Susvimo are **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. mCNP;
2. Prescribed by or in consultation with an ophthalmologist;
3. Age ≥ 18 years;

4. Failure of 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*
5. If request is for Susvimo, member meets both of the following (a and b):
  - a. Member has previously responded to at least 2 intravitreal injections of a VEGF inhibitor (e.g., intravitreal bevacizumab);
  - b. Request is for the treatment of neovascular (wet) AMD;
6. Dose does not exceed one of the following (a, b, or c):
  - a. For DME or DR: 0.3 mg per month;
  - b. For RVO or mCNV: 0.5 mg per month;
  - c. For AMD, either i or ii:
    - i. If request is for Lucentis or Byooviz: 0.5 mg per month;
    - ii. If request is for Susvimo: 2 mg per 6 months.

**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, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

**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 one of the following (a, b, or c):
  - a. For DME or DR: 0.3 mg per month;
  - b. For RVO or mCNV: 0.5 mg per month;
  - c. For AMD, either i or ii:
    - i. If request is for Lucentis or Byooviz: 0.5 mg per month;
    - ii. If request is for Susvimo: 2 mg per 6 months.

**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, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.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 policies – CP.CPA.09 for commercial, HIM.PA.154 for health insurance marketplace, and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid, or evidence of coverage documents.

**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.*

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
Bevacizumab (Avastin <sup>®</sup> )	<b>Neovascular (wet) AMD:</b> 1.25 to 2.5 mg administered by intravitreal injection every 4 weeks	2.5 mg/month
	<b>Neovascular glaucoma:</b> 1.25 mg administered by intravitreal injection every 4 weeks	1.25 mg/month
	<b>Macular edema secondary to RVO:</b> 1 mg to 2.5 mg administered by intravitreal injection every 4 weeks	2.5 mg/month
	<b>DR:</b> 1.25 mg administered by intravitreal injection every 6 weeks	1.25 mg/6 weeks
	<b>DME:</b> 1.25 mg administered by intravitreal injection every 6 weeks	1.25 mg/6 weeks
	<b>mCNV:</b>	0.5 mL/month

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
	0.05 mL initial intravitreal injection, followed by monthly evaluation for additional injections as needed	

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

*Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings*

- Contraindication(s):
  - Lucentis, Byooviz, Susvimo: Ocular or periocular infections
  - Lucentis, Byooviz, Susvimo: Hypersensitivity
  - Susvimo: active intraocular inflammation
- Boxed warning(s):
  - Lucentis, Byooviz: none reported
  - Susvimo: Susvimo implant has been associated with a 3-fold higher rate of endophthalmitis than monthly intravitreal injections of ranibizumab.

*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

Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Ranibizumab (Lucentis), Ranibizumab-nuna (Byooviz)	Neovascular (wet) AMD	0.5 mg (0.05 mL) administered by intravitreal injection once a month.  <u>Alternative dosing:</u> 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
	Macular edema following RVO	0.5 mg (0.05 mL) administered by intravitreal injection once a month.	0.5 mg/month
	mCNV	0.5 mg (0.05 mL) administered by intravitreal injection once a month for up to 3 months. Patients may be retreated if needed.	0.5 mg/month
Ranibizumab (Lucentis)	DME and DR with or without DME	0.3 mg (0.05 mL) administered by intravitreal injection once a month	0.3 mg/month
Ranibizumab (Susvimo)	Neovascular (wet) AMD	2 mg (0.02 mL of 100 mg/mL solution) continuously delivered via the Susvimo implant with refills every 24 weeks (approximately 6 months)	2 mg/6 months

## VI. Product Availability

Drug Name	Availability
Ranibizumab-nuna (Byooviz)	Single-dose glass vial: 0.5 mg/0.05 mL
Ranibizumab (Lucentis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single-use prefilled syringes: 0.3 mg/0.05 mL, 0.5 mg/0.05 mL</li> <li>Single-use glass vials: 0.3 mg/0.05 mL, 0.5 mg/0.05 mL</li> </ul>
Ranibizumab (Susvimo)	Single-dose glass vial: 100 mg/mL

## VII. References

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## 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
J2778	Injection, ranibizumab, 0.1 mg

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
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 bevacizumab redirection, Added age limit; References reviewed and updated	11.28.17	02.18
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.	11.20.18	02.19
No significant changes; added HIM-Medical Benefit line of business.	06.25.19	
1Q 2020 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.	10.23.19	02.20
Revised HIM “Medical Benefit” to HIM line of business	09.03.20	
Ad Hoc update: clarified redirection from bevacizumab to Avastin as compounding pharmacies often break standard Avastin vials into smaller dosages specifically for ophthalmic use and there is a temporary CPT code not currently available to biosimilars.	10.14.20	
1Q 2021 annual review: no significant changes; references to HIM.PHAR.21 revised to HIM.PA.154; references reviewed and updated.	12.01.20	02.21
Ad Hoc update: updated redirection to “bevacizumab intravitreal solution” given availability of generic bevacizumab intravitreal solution and considering goal was to minimize use of IV bevacizumab products, most notably biosimilars; converted redirection language to “must use”	03.04.21	
Ad Hoc update: converted redirection language from “must use” to “Failure of” bevacizumab intravitreal solution.	08.03.21	
1Q 2022 annual review: no significant changes; added legacy WCG line of business (WCG.CP.PHAR.186 to be retired); for legacy WCG: removed redirection to Mvasi for DME, shortened approval durations from 12 months to 3 months for mCNV and 6 months for all other indications; RT4: added Byooviz and Susvimo to policy; references reviewed and updated.	11.09.21	02.22

### **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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This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

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Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

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