

**POLICY:** Ophthalmology – Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Inhibitors – Eylea

- Eylea® (afibercept for intravitreal injection – Regeneron)
- Eylea® HD (afibercept intravitreal injection – Regeneron)

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 1/1/2022

**LAST REVISION DATE:** 11/15/2023

**COVERAGE CRITERIA FOR:** All Aspirus Medicare Plans

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## **OVERVIEW**

Eylea, a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitor, is indicated for the following uses:<sup>1</sup>

- **Diabetic macular edema.**
- **Diabetic retinopathy.**
- **Macular edema following retinal vein occlusion.**
- **Neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration.**
- **Retinopathy of Prematurity.**

Eylea HD, a high dose VEGF inhibitor, is indicated for the following uses:<sup>6</sup>

- **Diabetic macular edema.**
- **Diabetic retinopathy.**
- **Neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration.**

For all of the indications, except retinopathy of prematurity, the recommended dose for Eylea is 2 mg administered by intravitreal injection. Frequency of the dose varies depending on the condition, although all conditions state some patients may need upper limit dosing of once every 4 weeks (approximately every 25 days, monthly). The dose for retinopathy of prematurity is 0.4 mg administered by intravitreal injection; repeat injections may be given and the treatment interval between doses injected into the same eye should be at least 10 days.

For all indications, the recommended dose for Eylea HD is 8mg administered by intravitreal injection.<sup>6</sup> For diabetic macular edema and neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration, the dosing regimen for Eylea HD is every 4 weeks (approximately every 28 days +/- 7 day) for the first three doses, followed by one dose every 8 to 16 weeks, +/- 1 week. For diabetic retinopathy, the dosing is every 4 weeks (approximately every 28 days +/- 7 day) for the first three doses, followed by one dose every 8 to 12 weeks, +/- 1 week.

## **Other Uses with Supportive Evidence for Eylea**

Overproduction of VEGF may lead to other eye conditions, including neovascular glaucoma and other retinal and choroidal neovascular conditions affecting the eye.<sup>2,3</sup> Thus, the VEGF inhibitors have the potential to be used off-label for the treatment of other neovascular diseases of the eye to prevent or reduce vision loss.<sup>2,4,5</sup> 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.<sup>4,5</sup>

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

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Prior Authorization is recommended for medical benefit coverage of Eylea and Eylea HD. Approval is recommended for those who meet the **Criteria** and **Dosing** for the listed indications. Extended approvals are allowed if the patient continues to meet the Criteria and Dosing. Requests for doses outside of the established dosing documented in this policy will be considered on a case-by-case basis by a clinician (i.e., Medical Director or Pharmacist). All approvals are provided for the duration noted below. Because of the specialized skills required for evaluation and diagnosis of patients treated with Eylea as well as the monitoring required for adverse events and long-term efficacy, approval requires Eylea to be prescribed by or in consultation with a physician who specializes in the condition being treated.

This policy incorporates Medicare coverage guidance as set forth in National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), as well as in companion policy articles and other guidance applicable to the relevant service areas. These documents are cited in the References section of this policy. In some cases, this guidance includes specific lists of HCPCS and ICD-10 codes to help inform the coverage determination process. The Articles that include specific lists for billing and coding purposes will be included in the Reference section of this policy. However, to the extent that this policy cites such lists of HCPCS and ICD-10 codes, they should be used for reference purposes only. The presence of a specific HCPCS or ICD-10 code in a chart or companion article to an LCD is not by itself sufficient to approve coverage. Similarly, the absence of such a code does not necessarily mean that the applicable condition or diagnosis is excluded from coverage.

Note: Conditions for coverage outlined in this Medicare Advantage Medical Policy may be less restrictive than those found in applicable National Coverage Determinations, Local Coverage Determinations and/or Local Coverage Articles. Examples of situations where this clinical policy may be less restrictive include, but are not limited to, coverage of additional indications supported by CMS-approved compendia and the exclusion from this policy of additional coverage criteria requirements outlined in applicable National Coverage Determinations, Local Coverage Determinations and/or Local Coverage Articles.

*Indications with a ^ below are also covered (and, if applicable, further detailed/referenced) in the corresponding Commercial Care Continuum (CC) Policy. Note: Additional criteria requirements for coverage of the same indication as outlined in the Commercial CC Policy and this Medicare Advantage CC Policy may NOT be the same.*

## **RECOMMENDED AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA**

Coverage of Eylea and Eylea HD is recommended for requests meeting both the step therapy requirements and indication requirements:

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### **Step Therapy Requirements (New Starts Only)**

**Criteria.** *The patient must meet the following criteria (A, B, C, D, or E):*

- A)** For patients new to Eylea or Eylea HD therapy only, must have a trial of repackaged Avastin prior to approval of Eylea or Eylea HD. New starts to therapy defined as no use of Eylea or Eylea HD within the past 365 days for Medicare patients and includes use in either eye.
- B)** Patient has diabetic macular edema and has a baseline visual acuity worse than 20/40 according to the prescriber
- C)** Patient has diabetic macular edema with significant retinal thickening according to the prescriber;
- D)** Patient has diabetic retinopathy (without diabetic macular edema)
- E)** Patient has a contraindication or other clinical reason why repackaged Avastin cannot be tried before Eylea or Eylea HD.

Note: Step therapy only required for indications compendia supported for both Eylea or Eylea HD and Avastin.

### FDA-Approved Indications

I. Coverage of Eylea is recommended in those who meet one of the following criteria:

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**1. Diabetic Macular Edema.** Approve for 1 year if administered by or under the supervision of an ophthalmologist.

**Dosing.** Approve if the dose meets both of the following criteria (A and B):

**A)** The dose is 2 mg administered by intravitreal injection for each eye being treated; AND

**B)** The dosing interval is not more frequent than once every 25 days for each eye being treated.

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**2. Diabetic Retinopathy.** Approve for 1 year if administered by or under the supervision of an ophthalmologist.

**Dosing.** Approve if the dose meets both of the following criteria (A and B):

**A)** The dose is 2 mg administered by intravitreal injection for each eye being treated; AND

**B)** The dosing interval is not more frequent than once every 25 days for each eye being treated.

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**3. Macular Edema Following Retinal Vein Occlusion.** Approve for 1 year if administered by or under the supervision of an ophthalmologist.

**Dosing.** Approve if the dose meets both of the following criteria (A and B):

**A)** The dose is 2 mg administered by intravitreal injection for each eye being treated; AND

**B)** The dosing interval is not more frequent than once every 25 days for each eye being treated.

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**4. Neovascular (Wet) Age-Related Macular Degeneration.** Approve for 1 year if administered by or under the supervision of an ophthalmologist.

**Dosing.** Approve if the dose meets both of the following criteria (A and B):

**A)** The dose is 2 mg administered by intravitreal injection for each eye being treated; AND

**B)** The dosing interval is not more frequent than once every 25 days for each eye being treated.

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**5. Retinopathy of Prematurity.** Approve for 1 year if administered by or under the supervision of an ophthalmologist.

**Dosing.** Approve if the dose meets both of the following criteria (A and B):

**A)** The dose is 0.4 mg administered by intravitreal injection for each eye being treated; AND

**B)** The dosing interval is not more frequent than once every 10 days for each eye being treated.

### Other Uses with Supportive Evidence

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**6. Other Neovascular Diseases of the Eye.** Approve for 1 year if administered by or under the supervision of an ophthalmologist.

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Note: Examples of other neovascular diseases of the eye include neovascular glaucoma, sickle cell neovascularization, and choroidal neovascular conditions.

**Dosing.** Approve if the dose meets both of the following criteria (A and B):

- A) The dose is 2 mg administered by intravitreal injection for each eye being treated; AND
- B) The dosing interval is not more frequent than once every 25 days for each eye being treated.

II. Coverage of Eylea HD is recommended in those who meet one of the following criteria:

### FDA-Approved Indications

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1. **Diabetic Macular Edema.** Approve for 1 year if administered by or under the supervision of an ophthalmologist.

**Dosing.** Approve if the dose meets both of the following (A and B):

- A) The dose is 8 mg administered by intravitreal injection for each eye being treated; AND
- B) The dosing interval is not more frequent than once every 21 days for three doses, followed by not more frequent than once every 7 weeks for each eye being treated.

Note: The recommended dose is once every 4 weeks (approximately every 28 days +/- 7 day) for the first three doses, followed by one dose every 8 to 16 weeks, +/- 1 week.

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2. **Diabetic Retinopathy.** Approve for 1 year if administered by or under the supervision of an ophthalmologist.

**Dosing.** Approve if the dose meets both of the following (A and B):

- A) The dose is 8 mg administered by intravitreal injection for each eye being treated; AND
- B) The dosing interval is not more frequent than once every 21 days for three doses, followed by not more frequent than once every 7 weeks for each eye being treated.

Note: The recommended dose is once every 4 weeks (approximately every 28 days +/- 7 day) for the first three doses, followed by one dose every 8 to 12 weeks, +/- 1 week.

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3. **Neovascular (Wet) Age-Related Macular Degeneration.** Approve for 1 year if administered by or under the supervision of an ophthalmologist.

**Dosing.** Approve if the dose meets both of the following (A and B):

- A) The dose is 8 mg administered by intravitreal injection for each eye being treated; AND
- B) The dosing interval is not more frequent than once every 21 days for three doses, followed by not more frequent than once every 7 weeks for each eye being treated.

Note: The recommended dose is once every 4 weeks (approximately every 28 days +/- 7 day) for the first three doses, followed by one dose every 8 to 16 weeks, +/- 1 week.

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### CONDITIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

Coverage of Eylea is not recommended in the following situations:

1. Coverage is not recommended for circumstances not listed in the Recommended Authorization Criteria. Criteria will be updated as new published data are available.

### REFERENCES

1. Eylea<sup>®</sup> injection [prescribing information]. Tarrytown, NY: Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; May 2019.

2. Barakat MR, Kaiser PK. VEGF inhibitors for the treatment of neovascular age-related macular degeneration. *Expert Opin Investig Drugs*. 2009;18(5):637-646.
3. Tolentino M. Systemic and ocular safety of intravitreal anti-VEGF therapies for ocular neovascular disease. *Surv Ophthalmol*. 2011;56(2):95-113.
4. Kinnunen K, Ylä-Herttua S. Vascular endothelial growth factors in retinal and choroidal neovascular diseases. *Ann Med*. 2012;44(1):1-17.
5. Horsley MB, Kahook MY. Anti-VEGF therapy for glaucoma. *Curr Opin Ophthalmol*. 2010;21(2):112-117.
6. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, National Government Services, Inc, Local Coverage Determination (LCD): Drugs and Biologicals, Coverage of, for Label and Off-Label Uses (L33394) [original date 10/01/2015; revision effective date 11/7/2019]. Accessed on November 12, 2019.
7. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, National Government Services, Inc, Local Coverage Article (LCA): Billing and Coding: Ranibizumab, Aflibercept and Brolucizumab-dblb (A52451) [original date 10/01/2015; revision effective date 1/1/2020]. Accessed on January 30, 2020.
8. Eylea® HD intravitreal injection [prescribing information]. Tarrytown, NY: Regeneron; August 2023.

## HISTORY

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes*	Date
Policy created	New Medicare Advantage Medical Care Continuum Policy	07/11/2018
Policy revision	Added Macugen to policy	11/05/2018
Policy revision	Reviewed and revised original policy created 07/11/2018 in accordance with Local Coverage Article A52451 and Ophthalmology – Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF) Inhibitor Injectables Care Continuum Utilization Review Policy.	5/22/2019
Policy revision	Reviewed and revised original policy created 07/11/2018 in accordance with Local Coverage Determination L33394 and Ophthalmology – Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Inhibitors - Eylea Care Continuum Utilization Review Policy.	11/06/2019
Policy revision	Non-clinical update to policy to add the statement “This policy incorporates Medicare coverage guidance as set forth in National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), as well as in companion policy articles and other guidance applicable to the relevant service areas. These documents are cited in the References section of this policy. In some cases, this guidance includes specific lists of HCPCS and ICD-10 codes to help inform the coverage determination process. The Articles that include specific lists for billing and coding purposes will be included in the Reference section of this policy. However, to the extent that this policy cites such lists of HCPCS and ICD-10 codes, they should be used for reference purposes only. The presence of a specific HCPCS or ICD-10 code in a chart or companion article to an LCD is not by itself sufficient to approve coverage. Similarly, the absence of such a code does <u>not</u> necessarily mean that the applicable condition or diagnosis is excluded from coverage.”	1/30/2020
Policy revision	*Added the following to the Policy Statement “ <u>Note</u> : Conditions for coverage outlined in this Medicare Advantage Medical Policy may be less restrictive than those found in applicable National Coverage Determinations, Local Coverage Determinations and/or Local Coverage Articles. Examples of situations where this clinical policy may be less restrictive include, but are not limited to, coverage of additional indications supported by CMS-approved compendia and the exclusion from this policy of additional coverage criteria requirements outlined in applicable National Coverage Determinations, Local Coverage Determinations and/or Local Coverage Articles.” *Updated references	08/07/2020
UCare Revision	Clarified that continuation of therapy is acceptable if the requested product has been used in either eye.	10/7/2022
Selected Revision	<b>Retinopathy of Prematurity:</b> This condition was moved to the FDA-Approved Indications; previously, it was included in the Note of examples of Other Neovascular Diseases of the Eye, under “Other Uses with Supportive Evidence”. For this indication, the dosing was changed to be 0.4 mg administered per injection, with the dosing interval changed to be not more frequent than once every 10 days for	02/22/2023

	each eye being treated (previously, it was the same as Other Neovascular Diseases of the Eye, which was 2 mg per treated eye, with a dosing interval of at least 25 days between doses).	
Selected Revision	<b>Eylea HD:</b> Eylea HD was added to the policy; conditions and criteria for approval were added to the policy.	08/30/2023
Annual Revision	No criteria changes.	11/15/2023