Clinical Policy: Pegaptanib (Macugen)
Reference Number: CP.PHAR.185
Effective Date: 03.16
Last Review Date: 02.20
Line of Business: Commercial, Medicaid

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

Description
Pegaptanib (Macugen®) is a selective vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) antagonist.

FDA Approved Indication(s)
Macugen is indicated for the treatment of neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

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 Macugen is medically necessary when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria
   A. Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration (must meet all):
      1. Diagnosis of neovascular (wet) AMD;
      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 may be required for bevacizumab
      5. Dose does not exceed 0.3 mg (1 syringe) every 6 weeks.
         Approval duration: 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.

II. Continued Therapy
   A. Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration (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 0.3 mg (1 syringe) every 6 weeks.

**Approval duration:** 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.

**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 or evidence of coverage document.

**IV. Appendices/General Information**

*Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key*

AMD: age-related macular degeneration

FDA: Food and Drug Administration

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), Zirabev™ (bevacizumab-bvzr)</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>
</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 pegaptanib sodium or any other excipient in this product

- Boxed warning(s): none reported
Appendix D: General Information

- In the VEGF Inhibition Study in Ocular Neovascularization (VISION) trial, the proportion of patients who lost fewer than 15 letters at week 54 for patients treated with Macugen 0.3 mg was 70%, compared to 55% for placebo (p < 0.001). There was a significant difference in adverse events between patients treated with Macugen compared to placebo for vitreous floaters (33% vs. 8%, p < 0.001), vitreous opacities (18% vs. 10%, p < 0.001), and anterior chamber inflammation (14% vs. 6%, p = 0.001).

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)</td>
<td>0.3 mg (0.09 mL) administered by intravitreal injection every 6 weeks</td>
<td>0.3 mg every 6 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VI. Product Availability

- Single-use syringe: 0.3 mg/90 µL solution for intravitreal injection

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>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J2503</td>
<td>Injection, pegaptanib sodium, 0.3 mg</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals

- 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.
  Date: 03.16
  P&T Approval Date: 03.16

  Date: 03.17
  P&T Approval Date: 03.17
**Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals**

<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For re-auth: modified “Currently receiving…” to “Previously received…”; modified documentation of positive response criterion to be open-ended; added criterion to verify that Macugen is not being used with other anti-VEGF therapies.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1Q18 annual review: Policies combined for Medicaid and commercial; For Medicaid: Added bevacizumab redirection, Added specific documentation of positive response to therapy required for continued approval, Added “not used concomitantly with other VEGF therapies” to section III. Diagnoses/indications NOT authorized, Added specialist requirement, Removed criteria checking for contraindications (ocular infections) due to its ophthalmic nature and addition of specialist requirement, Added age limit following safety guidance, References reviewed and updated.</td>
<td>11.28.17</td>
<td>02.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1Q 2019 annual review: reduced commercial approval durations from length of benefit to 6 months; removed section III requirement against concomitant use with other VEGF medications; references reviewed and updated.</td>
<td>11.20.18</td>
<td>02.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1Q 2020 annual review: no significant changes; references reviewed and updated.</td>
<td>09.26.19</td>
<td>02.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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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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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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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