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5.90.026

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<b>Section:</b>	Prescription Drugs	<b>Effective Date:</b>	October 1, 2024
<b>Subsection:</b>	Topical Products	<b>Original Policy Date:</b>	February 17, 2017
<b>Subject:</b>	Ophthalmic VEGF Inhibitors	<b>Page:</b>	1 of 8

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**Last Review Date:** September 6, 2024

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## Ophthalmic VEGF Inhibitors

### Description

Beovu (brolucizumab-dbli)

Eylea (aflibercept), Ahzantive\* (aflibercept-mrbb), Opuviz\* (aflibercept-yszy), Yesafili\* (aflibercept-jbvf)

Eylea HD (aflibercept)

Vabysmo (faricimab-svoa)

\*These medications are included in this policy but are not available on the market as of yet

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### Background

Ophthalmic VEGF inhibitors are vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitors used to treat patients with a variety of ocular conditions. The VEGF inhibitors block the effects of VEGF-A and prevents the interaction of VEGF-A with its receptors (VEGFR1 and VEGFR2) on the surface of endothelial cells, reducing endothelial cell growth, vascular leakage, and new blood vessel formation (1-7).

### Regulatory Status

FDA-approved indications: (1-7)

1. **Eylea** and its biosimilars are vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitors indicated for the treatment of patients with:
  - Neovascular (Wet) Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)
  - Macular Edema following Retinal Vein Occlusion (RVO)
  - Diabetic Macular Edema (DME)
  - Diabetic Retinopathy (DR)

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<b>Section:</b>	Prescription Drugs	<b>Effective Date:</b>	October 1, 2024
<b>Subsection:</b>	Topical Products	<b>Original Policy Date:</b>	February 17, 2017
<b>Subject:</b>	Ophthalmic VEGF Inhibitors	<b>Page:</b>	2 of 8

---

- Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP)
- 2. **Eylea HD** is a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitor indicated for the treatment of patients with:
  - Neovascular (Wet) Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)
  - Diabetic Macular Edema (DME)
  - Diabetic Retinopathy (DR)
- 3. **Beovu** is a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitor indicated for the treatment of:
  - Neovascular (Wet) Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD).
  - Diabetic Macular Edema (DME)
- 4. **Vabysmo** is a vascular endothelial growth factor receptor (VEGF) and angiopoietin-2 (Ang-2) inhibitor indicated for the treatment of patients with:
  - Neovascular (Wet) Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)
  - Diabetic Macular Edema (DME)
  - Macular Edema following Retinal Vein Occlusion (RVO)

VEGF inhibitors are contraindicated in ocular or periocular infections and in patients with active intraocular inflammation (1-7).

VEGF inhibitors must only be administered by a qualified physician. Adequate anesthesia and a topical broad-spectrum microbicide should be given prior to the injection. Increases in intraocular pressure have been seen within 30-60 minutes of an intravitreal injection (1-7).

The safety and effectiveness of Beovu, Eylea HD, and Vabysmo in pediatric patients have not been established. The safety and effectiveness of Eylea and its biosimilars has been demonstrated in pre-term infants with ROP (1-7).

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## Related policies

Bevacizumab, Lucentis, Susvimo

## Policy

*This policy statement applies to clinical review performed for pre-service (Prior Approval, Precertification, Advanced Benefit Determination, etc.) and/or post-service claims.*

Ophthalmic VEGF inhibitors may be considered **medically necessary** if the conditions indicated below are met.

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<b>Section:</b>	Prescription Drugs	<b>Effective Date:</b>	October 1, 2024
<b>Subsection:</b>	Topical Products	<b>Original Policy Date:</b>	February 17, 2017
<b>Subject:</b>	Ophthalmic VEGF Inhibitors	<b>Page:</b>	3 of 8

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Ophthalmic VEGF inhibitors may be considered **investigational** for all other indications.

## Prior-Approval Requirements

**Age** 18 years of age or older

### Diagnoses

#### **Eylea, Ahzantive, Opuviz, and Yesafili only**

Patient must have **ONE** of the following:

1. Neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (AMD)
2. Macular edema following retinal vein occlusion (RVO)
3. Diabetic macular edema (DME)
4. Diabetic retinopathy (DR)

#### **Eylea HD only**

Patient must have **ONE** of the following:

1. Neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (AMD)
2. Diabetic macular edema (DME)
3. Diabetic retinopathy (DR)

#### **Beovu only**

Patient must have **ONE** of the following:

1. Neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (AMD)
2. Diabetic macular edema (DME)

#### **Vabysmo only**

Patient must have **ONE** of the following:

1. Neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (AMD)
2. Diabetic macular edema (DME)
3. Macular edema following retinal vein occlusion (RVO)

**AND ALL** of the following for **ALL** medications:

- a. Documented baseline visual acuity test
- b. **NO** active intraocular inflammation
- c. **NO** ocular or periocular infection
- d. **NOT** used in combination with Syfovre or with other vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitors for ocular indications (see Appendix 1)

<b>Section:</b>	Prescription Drugs	<b>Effective Date:</b>	October 1, 2024
<b>Subsection:</b>	Topical Products	<b>Original Policy Date:</b>	February 17, 2017
<b>Subject:</b>	Ophthalmic VEGF Inhibitors	<b>Page:</b>	4 of 8

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**Age** No age requirement

**Diagnosis**

**Eylea, Ahzantive, Opuviz, and Yesafili only**

Patient must have the following:

1. Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP)

**AND ALL** of the following:

- a. **NO** active intraocular inflammation
- b. **NO** ocular or periocular infection
- c. **NOT** used in combination with Syfovre or with other vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitors for ocular indications (see Appendix 1)

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**Prior – Approval *Renewal* Requirements**

**Age** 18 years of age or older

**Diagnoses**

**Eylea, Ahzantive, Opuviz, and Yesafili only**

Patient must have **ONE** of the following:

1. Neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (AMD)
2. Macular edema following retinal vein occlusion (RVO)
3. Diabetic macular edema (DME)
4. Diabetic retinopathy (DR)

**Eylea HD only**

Patient must have **ONE** of the following:

1. Neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (AMD)
2. Diabetic macular edema (DME)
3. Diabetic retinopathy (DR)

**Beovu only**

Patient must have **ONE** of the following:

1. Neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (AMD)
2. Diabetic macular edema (DME)

<b>Section:</b>	Prescription Drugs	<b>Effective Date:</b>	October 1, 2024
<b>Subsection:</b>	Topical Products	<b>Original Policy Date:</b>	February 17, 2017
<b>Subject:</b>	Ophthalmic VEGF Inhibitors	<b>Page:</b>	5 of 8

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## **Vabysmo only**

Patient must have **ONE** of the following:

1. Neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (AMD)
2. Diabetic macular edema (DME)
3. Macular edema following retinal vein occlusion (RVO)

**AND ALL** of the following for **ALL** medications:

- a. Patient has 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)
  - b. **NO** active intraocular inflammation
  - c. **NO** ocular or periocular infection
  - d. **NOT** used in combination with Syfovre or with other vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitors for ocular indications (see Appendix 1)
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**Age** No age requirement

## **Diagnosis**

### **Eylea, Ahzantive, Opuviz, and Yesafili only**

Patient must have the following:

1. Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP)

**AND ALL** of the following:

- a. Patient has demonstrated a positive clinical response to therapy (e.g., no clinically significant reactivations of ROP)
- b. **NO** active intraocular inflammation
- c. **NO** ocular or periocular infection
- d. **NOT** used in combination with Syfovre or with other vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitors for ocular indications (see Appendix 1)

<b>Section:</b>	Prescription Drugs	<b>Effective Date:</b>	October 1, 2024
<b>Subsection:</b>	Topical Products	<b>Original Policy Date:</b>	February 17, 2017
<b>Subject:</b>	Ophthalmic VEGF Inhibitors	<b>Page:</b>	6 of 8

## Pre - PA Allowance

None

## Prior - Approval Limits

**Duration** 12 months

## Prior – Approval *Renewal* Limits

Same as above

## Rationale

### Summary

VEGF inhibitors prevent the binding and activation of VEGF receptors leading to a decrease in the neovascularization and vascular permeability associated with neovascular AMD and macular edema following RVO, DR, and DME. Patients taking VEGF inhibitors must be monitored and managed for intravitreal injection procedure associated effects, elevated intraocular pressure, and appropriate perfusion of the optic nerve head. VEGF inhibitors must only be administered by a retina trained ophthalmologist (1-7).

Prior approval is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate, and cost-effective use of VEGF Inhibitors while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

### References

1. Eylea [package insert]. Tarrytown, NY: Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; December 2023.
2. Eylea HD [package insert]. Tarrytown, NY: Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; December 2023.
3. Beovu [package insert]. East Hanover, NJ: Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation; July 2024.
4. Vabysmo [package insert]. South San Francisco, CA: Genentech, Inc.; July 2024.
5. Opuviz [package insert]. Cambridge, MA: Biogen MA Inc.; May 2024.
6. Yesafili [package insert]. Cambridge, MA: Biocon Biologics Inc.; May 2024.
7. Ahzantive [package insert]. Martinsried, Germany: Formycon AG; June 2024.

## Policy History

Date	Action
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# 5.90.026

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<b>Section:</b>	Prescription Drugs	<b>Effective Date:</b>	October 1, 2024
<b>Subsection:</b>	Topical Products	<b>Original Policy Date:</b>	February 17, 2017
<b>Subject:</b>	Ophthalmic VEGF Inhibitors	<b>Page:</b>	7 of 8

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February 2017	Addition to PA
June 2017	Removal of Lucentis and the addition of Macugen Addition of the requirement: not be used in combination therapy with other vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitors
September 2017	Annual review
September 2018	Annual review and reference update
May 2019	Change to Eylea indication: patients with diabetic retinopathy (DR) no longer required to have concurrent DME
June 2019	Annual review
October 2019	Addition of Beovu
December 2019	Annual review
March 2020	Annual review and reference update
March 2021	Revised renewal requirement from “no loss of greater than 15 letters in visual acuity” to “patient has 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)”. Also removed the letter count requirement for initiation per FEP
June 2021	Annual review and reference update. Removed Macugen from policy and Appendix 1 due to being discontinued
March 2022	Annual review and reference update. Addition of Vabysmo to policy and added Susvimo and Vabysmo to Appendix 1
June 2022	Annual review and reference update. Per PI update, addition of indication for Beovu of diabetic macular edema
September 2022	Annual review
December 2022	Annual review
March 2023	Per PI update, added indication for Eylea of retinopathy of prematurity (ROP)
June 2023	Annual review
September 2023	Addition of Eylea HD to policy
December 2023	Annual review. Per PI update, added indication of macular edema following RVO to Vabysmo
March 2024	Annual review and reference update
May 2024	Added requirement not to use in combination with Syfovre
August 2024	Addition of Eylea biosimilars Ahzantive, Opuviz, and Yesafili
September 2024	Annual review and reference update

## Keywords

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**This policy was approved by the FEP® Pharmacy and Medical Policy Committee on September 6, 2024 and is effective on October 1, 2024.**

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**Section:** Prescription Drugs      **Effective Date:** October 1, 2024  
**Subsection:** Topical Products      **Original Policy Date:** February 17, 2017  
**Subject:** Ophthalmic VEGF Inhibitors      **Page:** 8 of 8

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## Appendix 1 - List of VEGF Inhibitors for Ocular Indications

Generic Name	Brand Name
aflibercept	Eylea/Eylea HD
bevacizumab	Avastin
brolocizumab-dbl	Beovu
faricimab-svoa	Vabysmo
ranibizumab	Lucentis
ranibizumab	Susvimo