

## OPHTHALMIC VEGF INHIBITORS

### Beovu (brolucizumab-dbll)

**Eylea (aflibercept), Ahzantive\* (aflibercept-mrbb), Opuviz\* (aflibercept-yszy), Pavblu\* (aflibercept-ayyh), 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

## RATIONALE FOR INCLUSION IN PA PROGRAM

### 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 (1-8).

### Regulatory Status

FDA-approved indications: (1-8)

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

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- 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 (1-8).

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 (1-8).

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 (1-8).

### **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 (1-8).

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.; October 2024.



Federal Employee Program.

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2. Eylea HD [package insert]. Tarrytown, NY: Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; October 2024.
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.
8. Pavblu [package insert]. Thousand Oaks, CA: Amgen, Inc.; August 2024.