

Policy Category:

CBA

Who usually applies for funding?

Not applicable

Bevacizumab for iris rubeosis and rubeotic/neovascular glaucoma

Commissioning decision

The ICB will provide funding for Bevacizumab for iris rubeosis and rubeotic/neovascular glaucoma for patients who meet the criteria defined within this policy.

Policy Statement:

Only funded where due to advanced diabetic retinopathy and retinal occlusive diseases.

Rationale:

Bevacizumab is not licensed for any ophthalmic indications. There is some limited evidence of its efficacy in treating iris rubeosis and rubeotic/neovascular glaucoma. Treatment is restricted to patients who meet the criteria set out in this policy.

Plain English Summary:

What is iris rubeosis

Rubeosis iridis, is a **medical condition of the iris of the eye** in which new abnormal blood vessels are formed on the surface of the iris. These abnormal blood vessels usually occur when the retina is starved of oxygen. This can be a problem associated with diabetes or retinal blocked veins. The blood vessels can grow and cause the eye pressure to rise. This can lead to a painful eye and reduced vision.

What is Bevacizumab (Avastin)

Bevacizumab is a drug that blocks a substance called vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) which stimulates the growth of new blood vessels in the eye. This is produced when the retina is starved of oxygen.

What does the policy mean for me?

Bevacizumab is not licenced in the UK for treating iris rubeosis. However, there is evidence to show that it is an effective treatment for this condition, and therefore it is sometimes made available to patients through the NHS. This policy sets out the clinical criteria that a patient needs to meet in order to access this treatment. If your doctor believes that you meet the criteria set out in the policy the treatment would be funded by the NHS.

Glossary of clinical terms contained within the policy

- **Diabetic retinopathy** - Diabetic retinopathy is a complication of diabetes, caused by high blood sugar levels damaging the back of the eye (retina). It can cause blindness if left undiagnosed and untreated
- **Retinal occlusive diseases** - Tiny blood vessels supply the retina with oxygen and other nutrients. Arteries deliver the blood, and the retinal veins carry it out. Sometimes a vein can then become blocked, or occluded, making it difficult for blood to leave the eye. This is called a retinal vein occlusion (RVO). The blocked

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circulation can lead to swelling and bleeding within the retina, growth of abnormal retinal blood vessels, and partial or total vision loss.

Evidence base:

North East Treatment Advisory Group (NETAG): Bevacizumab (Avastin®) for neovascular glaucoma secondary to ischaemic central retinal vein occlusion.

For further information please contact GLICB.IFR@nhs.net

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Policy sign off:

Reviewing body	
Effective Clinical Commissioning Policy Group	3 rd August 2015 (virtual)
Integrated Governance and Quality Committee	20 th August 2015

Version control:

Version No	Type of Change	Date	Description of Change
1			Date of publication 12.10.15
2	Date change	21.6.18	Review date changed to June 2019
3	Date change	17.9.19	Review date changed to September 2020
4	Date & wording	11.6.20	Review date changed to July 2022 and Plain English Summary updated.
5	Date change	12.12.23	Review date changed to December 2026