

SPECIALTY GUIDELINE MANAGEMENT

VISUDYNE (verteporfin injection)

POLICY

I. INDICATIONS

The indications below including FDA-approved indications and compendial uses are considered a covered benefit provided that all the approval criteria are met and the member has no exclusions to the prescribed therapy.

A. FDA-Approved Indications

Visudyne for injection is indicated for the treatment of patients with predominantly classic subfoveal choroidal neovascularization due to age-related macular degeneration, pathologic myopia or presumed ocular histoplasmosis.

B. Compendial Indications

1. Classic subfoveal choroidal neovascularization due to chronic central serous chorioretinopathy
2. Choroidal hemangioma

All other indications are considered experimental/investigational and not medically necessary.

II. CRITERIA FOR INITIAL APPROVAL

A. **Choroidal neovascularization**

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for treatment of predominantly classic subfoveal choroidal neovascularization (CNV) when both of the following criteria are met:

1. Member has predominantly classic subfoveal choroidal neovascularization due to ONE of the following:
 - a. Age-related macular degeneration, **OR**
 - b. Pathologic myopia, **OR**
 - c. Presumed ocular histoplasmosis, **OR**
 - d. Chronic central serous chorioretinopathy (also includes retinal pigment epithelium leakage without evident CNV), **AND**
2. The treatment spot size is less than or equal to 6.4 mm in diameter.

B. **Choroidal hemangioma**

Authorization of 6 months may be granted for treatment of choroidal hemangioma.

III. CONTINUATION OF THERAPY

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for continued treatment of an indication listed in Section II for members who have demonstrated a positive clinical response to Visudyne therapy.

IV. REFERENCES

1. Visudyne [package insert]. Charleston, SC: Alcamis Carolinas Corporation.; February 2017.

Reference number(s)
3011-A

2. van Rijssen, T.J., van Dijk, E.H.C., Yzer, S., Ohno-Matsui, K., Keunen, J.E.E., Schlingemann, R.O., Sivaprasad, S., Querques, G., Downes, S.M., Fauser, S., Hoyng, C.B., Piccolino, F.C., Chhablani, J.K., Lai, T.Y.Y., Lotery, A.J., Larsen, M., Holz, F.G., Freund, K.B., Yannuzzi, L.A., Boon, C.J.F., Central serous chorioretinopathy: Towards an evidence-based treatment guideline, *Progress in Retinal and Eye Research* (2019), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.preteyeres.2019.07.003>.
3. Tsipursky MS, Golchet PR, Jampol LM. Photodynamic therapy of choroidal hemangioma in sturge-weber syndrome, with a review of treatments for diffuse and circumscribed choroidal hemangiomas. *Surv Ophthalmol.* 2011; 56 (1): 68-85.