POLICY: Ophthalmology - Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Inhibitors – Susvimo
UtilizationManagement Medical Policy

- Susvimo™ (ranibizumab intravitreal injection via ocular implant – Genentech/Roche)

EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/1/2022
REVIEW DATE: 11/20/2024

COVERAGE CRITERIA FOR: All Aspirus Medicare Plans

OVERVIEW

Susvimo, a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitor, is indicated for the treatment of patients with **neovascular** (wet) **age-related macular degeneration** (AMD) who have previously responded to at least two intravitreal injections of a VEGF inhibitor.[1] In contrast to the other VEGF inhibitor products which are administered as intravitreal injections, Susvimo is an intravitreal implant.

Safety

Susvimo has a Boxed Warning regarding endophthalmitis, which occurred at a 3-fold higher rate with Susvimo vs. ranibizumab intravitreal injection (Lucentis, biosimilars), 1.7% vs. 0.5%, respectively in active-controlled trials.[1] Additional Warnings/Precautions associated with the Susvimo implant and/or implant-related procedures include rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, implant dislocation, vitreous hemorrhage, conjunctival erosion or retraction, conjunctival bleb, postoperative decrease in visual acuity, air bubbles causing improper filling of the implant, and deflection of the implant.

POLICY STATEMENT

Due to the safety concerns, **approval of Susvimo is not recommended**. There are significant risks associated with use based on the Boxed Warning regarding endophthalmitis.

Automation: None.

RECOMMENDED AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA

None.

CONDITIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

Coverage of Susvimo is not recommended in the following situations:

1. **Neovascular (Wet) Age-Related Macular Degeneration.** Due to the safety data, approval is not recommended for Susvimo. In the pivotal trial, Susvimo demonstrated non-inferiority compared with ranibizumab intravitreal injection (Lucentis, biosimilars).[1-3] However, ocular adverse events were more frequent with Susvimo vs. ranibizumab intravitreal injection; patients treated with Susvimo require regular monitoring to evaluate for presence of these adverse events. Notably, Susvimo labeling includes a unique Boxed Warning regarding endophthalmitis, which was three times more frequent with Susvimo vs. ranibizumab intravitreal injection.

2. Coverage is not recommended for circumstances not listed in the Recommended Authorization Criteria. Criteria will be updated as new published data are available.

REFERENCES

1. Susvimo™ intravitreal injection via ocular implant [prescribing information]. South San Francisco, CA: Genentech; April 2022.

HISTORY

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Review Date
Annual Revision	No criteria changes.	11/15/2023
Aspirus P&T Review	Policy reviewed and approved by Aspirus P&T committee. Annual review process	09/16/2024
Annual Revision	No criteria changes.	11/20/2024