

# 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
  - b. Pathologic myopia
  - c. Presumed ocular histoplasmosis
  - d. Chronic central serous chorioretinopathy (also includes retinal pigment epithelial leakage without evident CNV)
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 therapy.

#### IV. REFERENCES

1. Visudyne [package insert]. Charleston, SC: Alcami Carolinas Corporation; February 2023.

Reference number(s)
3011-A

- 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>.
- 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.