

## Quick reference guide

# Ranibizumab and pegaptanib for the treatment of age-related macular degeneration

## Guidance

- 1 Ranibizumab, within its marketing authorisation, is recommended as an option for the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration if:
  - all of the following circumstances apply in the eye to be treated:
    - the best-corrected visual acuity is between 6/12 and 6/96
    - there is no permanent structural damage to the central fovea
    - the lesion size is less than or equal to 12 disc areas in greatest linear dimension
    - there is evidence of recent presumed disease progression (blood vessel growth, as indicated by fluorescein angiography, or recent visual acuity changes)

**and**

  - the cost of ranibizumab beyond 14 injections in the treated eye is met by the manufacturer.
- 2 It is recommended that treatment with ranibizumab should be continued only in people who maintain adequate response to therapy. Criteria for discontinuation should include persistent deterioration in visual acuity and identification of anatomical changes in the retina that indicate inadequate response to therapy. It is recommended that a national protocol specifying criteria for discontinuation is developed.
- 3 Pegaptanib is not recommended for the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration.
- 4 People who are currently receiving pegaptanib for any lesion type should have the option to continue therapy until they and their clinicians consider it appropriate to stop.

## Implementation tools

- NICE has developed tools to help organisations implement this guidance (listed below). These are available on our website ([www.nice.org.uk/TA155](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA155)).
- Local costing template incorporating a costing report to estimate the savings and costs associated with implementation.
  - Audit support for monitoring local practice.

## Further information

### Ordering information

You can download the following documents from [www.nice.org.uk/TA155](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA155)

- A quick reference guide (this document) – a summary of recommendations for healthcare professionals.
- 'Understanding NICE guidance' – information for patients and carers.
- The full guidance.
- Details of all the evidence that was looked at and other background information.

For printed copies of the quick reference guide or 'Understanding NICE guidance', phone NICE publications on 0845 003 7783 or email [publications@nice.org.uk](mailto:publications@nice.org.uk) and quote:

- N1664 (quick reference guide)
- N1665 ('Understanding NICE guidance')
- N1666 ('Understanding NICE guidance' large print version).

NICE has also produced an audio version of 'Understanding NICE guidance'. This is available to download from our website ([www.nice.org.uk/TA155](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA155)).

## Related NICE guidance

For information about NICE guidance that has been issued or is in development, see the website ([www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)).

- Guidance on the use of photodynamic therapy for age-related macular degeneration. NICE technology appraisal 68 (2003). Available from: [www.nice.org.uk/TA068](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA068)

## Updating the appraisal

This technology appraisal will be considered for review in August 2011. Information about the progress of a review will be posted on the NICE website ([www.nice.org.uk/TA155](http://www.nice.org.uk/TA155)).

This guidance represents the view of the Institute, which was arrived at after careful consideration of the available evidence. Healthcare professionals are expected to take it fully into account when exercising their clinical judgement. This guidance does not, however, override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make appropriate decisions in the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Implementation of this guidance is the responsibility of local commissioners and/or providers. Commissioners and providers are reminded that it is their responsibility to implement the guidance, in their local context, in light of their duties to avoid unlawful discrimination and to have regard to promoting equality of opportunity. Nothing in this guidance should be interpreted in a way which would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

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