Visudyne is a light activated drug used in photodynamic therapy to treat certain cases of choroidal neovascularization (CNV). A course of therapy is a 2-step process. First Visudyne is administered. Second, Visudyne is activated with light from a nonthermal diode laser. Photoactivation of Visudyne is controlled by the light dose delivered. Patients must avoid exposure of skin or eyes to direct sunlight or bright indoor light for 5 days following the procedure.

CNV is the creation of new blood vessels in the choroid layer of the eye and can lead to vision loss. Age-related macular degeneration is the most common cause of CNV.

Visudyne (verteporfin) will be considered for coverage when the following criteria are met:

**Choroidal Neovascularization (CNV)**

For **initial** authorization:
1. Member is at least 18 years of age; AND
2. Medication must be prescribed by or in consultation with an ophthalmologist; AND
3. Member has a documented diagnosis of predominantly classic subfoveal choroidal neovascularization (CNV) due to one of the following:
   a) “Wet” age-related macular degeneration (AMD)
   b) Pathologic myopia
   c) Presumed ocular histoplasmosis; AND
4. Trial and failure of bevacizumab; AND
5. Member does NOT have predominantly occult subfoveal CNV.
6. **Dosage allowed/Quantity limit:** 6 mg/m² body surface area IV

*If all the above requirements are met, the medication will be approved for 3 months (1 dose per eye).*

For **reauthorization**:
1. Chart notes must document positive clinical response (e.g., slowed progression of vision loss) following photodynamic treatment; AND
2. Choroidal neovascular leakage has recurred as detected on fluorescein angiography (FA) or optical coherence tomography (OCT).

*If all the above requirements are met, the medication will be approved for an additional 3 months (1 dose per eye).*
CareSource considers Visudyne (verteporfin) not medically necessary for the treatment of conditions that are not listed in this document. For any other indication, please refer to the Off-Label policy.

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ACTION/DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/19/2021</td>
<td>New policy created for Visudyne.</td>
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References:


Effective date: 04/01/2022
Revised date: 10/19/2021