UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT MEDICAL POLICY

POLICY: Ophthalmology – Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Inhibitors – Beovu Utilization Management Medical Policy
- Beovu® (brolucizumab intravitreal injection – Novartis)

REVIEW DATE: 11/12/2025

OVERVIEW

Beovu, a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitor, is given intravitreally for the treatment of ophthalmic conditions. Beovu is indicated for the following uses:[1]

- **Diabetic macular edema** (DME).
- **Neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration** (AMD).

The recommended dosing for each indication is as follows[1]:

- **DME:** 6 mg administered by intravitreal injection every 6 weeks (approximately every 39 to 45 days) for the first five doses, followed by 6 mg administered by intravitreal injection once every 8 to 12 weeks.
- **Neovascular AMD:** 6 mg administered by intravitreal injection once a month (approximately every 25 to 31 days) for the first three doses, followed by 6 mg administered by intravitreal injection once every 8 to 12 weeks.

Other Uses with Supportive Evidence

VEGF is a protein that plays a key role in retinal physiology and pathology.[2] Overexpression of VEGF may result in retinal and choroidal neovascularization and vascular leakage, which can contribute to vision loss associated with common retinal disorders. Intravitreal VEGF inhibitors are highly effective in reducing ocular neovascularization, macular edema, and exudation that can result in vision impairment and/or loss. Intravitreal VEGF inhibitors have been used off-label to manage eye conditions related to increased VEGF production. In addition to the labeled indications for the intravitreal VEGF inhibitors (e.g., neovascular AMD, diabetic macular edema, diabetic retinopathy), examples of other neovascular diseases of the eye that can potentially be treated with intravitreal VEGF inhibitors are angioid streaks, iris neovascularization, neovascular glaucoma, pachychoroid neovasculopathy, polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy, and presumed ocular histoplasmosis syndrome. Of note, angioid streaks can occur secondary to systemic conditions such as pseudoxanthoma elasticum, Paget's disease of bone, and sickle cell disease. Research is ongoing and rapidly evolving on the use of intravitreal VEGF inhibitors in other neovascular eye disorders.

POLICY STATEMENT

Prior Authorization is recommended for medical benefit coverage of Beovu. Approval is recommended for those who meet the **Criteria** and **Dosing** for the listed indications. Extended approvals are allowed if the patient continues to meet the Criteria and Dosing. Requests for doses outside of the established dosing documented in this policy will be considered on a case-by-case basis by a clinician (i.e., Medical Director or Pharmacist). All approvals are provided for the duration noted below. Because of the specialized skills required for evaluation and diagnosis of patients treated with Beovu as well as the monitoring required for adverse events and long-term efficacy, approval requires Beovu to be prescribed by or in consultation with a physician who specializes in the condition being treated.

Automation: None.

RECOMMENDED AUTHORIZATION CRITERIA

Coverage of Beovu is recommended in those who meet one of the following criteria:

FDA-Approved Indications

1. **Diabetic Macular Edema.** Approve for 1 year if administered by or under the supervision of an ophthalmologist.

   Dosing. Approve if the requested dosing meets BOTH of the following (A and B):
   A) The dose is 6 mg administered by intravitreal injection for each eye being treated; AND
   B) The dosing interval is not more frequent than once every 39 days for the first five doses, followed by not more frequently than once every 8 weeks for each eye being treated.

2. **Neovascular (Wet) Age-Related Macular Degeneration.** Approve for 1 year if administered by or under the supervision of an ophthalmologist.

   Dosing. Approve if the requested dosing meets BOTH of the following (A and B):
   A) The dose is 6 mg administered by intravitreal injection for each eye being treated; AND
   B) The dosing interval is not more frequent than once every 25 days for the first three doses, followed by not more frequently than once every 8 weeks for each eye being treated.

Other Uses with Supportive Evidence

3. **Other Neovascular Diseases of the Eye.** Approve for 1 year if administered by or under the supervision of an ophthalmologist.
   Note: Examples of other neovascular diseases of the eye include angioid streaks, iris neovascularization, neovascular glaucoma, pachychoroid neovasculopathy, polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy, and presumed ocular histoplasmosis syndrome.

   Dosing. Approve if the requested dosing meets BOTH of the following (A and B):
   A) The dose is 6 mg administered by intravitreal injection for each eye being treated; AND
   B) The dosing interval is not more frequent than once every 25 days for the first three doses, followed by not more frequently than once every 8 weeks for each eye being treated.

CONDITIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

Coverage of Beovu is not recommended in the following situations:

1. **Concomitant Use with Another Intravitreal Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Inhibitor.**
   There is no evidence to support concomitant use of Beovu with another intravitreal vascular endothelial growth factor inhibitor.
   Note: Intravitreal vascular endothelial growth factor inhibitors are: bevacizumab intravitreal injection (compounded from Avastin® [bevacizumab, injection, for intravenous use] or its biosimilars; off-label use), aflibercept intravitreal injection (Eylea®/biosimilars, Eylea® HD), ranibizumab intravitreal injection (Lucentis®, biosimilars), Susvimo® (ranibizumab intravitreal injection via ocular implant), and Vabysmo® (faricimab-svoa 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. Beovu® intravitreal injection [prescribing information]. Hanover, NJ: Novartis; July 2024.
2. Hang A, Feldman S, Amin AP, et al. Intravitreal anti-vascular endothelial growth factor therapies for retinal disorders. *Pharmaceuticals*. 2023;16:1140. Doi.org/10.3390/ph16081140.

HISTORY

Type of Revision	Summary of Changes	Review Date
Annual Revision	No criteria changes.	11/15/2023
Annual Revision	No criteria changes.	11/20/2024
Annual Revision	**Other Neovascular Diseases of the Eye.** The Note of examples of other neovascular diseases was revised to remove sickle cell neovascularization and choroidal neovascular conditions and the following examples were added: angioid streaks, iris neovascularization, pachychoroid neovasculopathy, polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy, and presumed ocular histoplasmosis. **Conditions Not Recommended for Approval:** "Concomitant Use with Another Intravitreal Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Inhibitor" was added.	11/12/2025