



## Recently Introduced Products

Drug Name	Indication	Potential Impact	Expected Avg. Annual Cost
Campral®	For the maintenance of abstinence from alcohol in patients with alcohol dependence who are abstinent at treatment initiation	\$	\$1752
Actonel 75mg®	For the treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis in women	\$	\$485
Mezavant™	For the induction of remission in patients with active, mild to moderate ulcerative colitis	\$	\$2175

\$: Est. drug plan expenditure increase of <1%\* \$\$: Est. drug plan expenditure increase of 1-5%\* \$\$\$: Est. drug plan expenditure increase of >5%\*

## Lucentis® – Improving Vision in Patients with Age Related Macular Degeneration

There is no cure for AMD. The treatment goal for patients with “wet” or neovascular Age Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) is to maintain or improve vision to an acceptable visual and physical level that allows for independent living. Lucentis® is the newest drug in its class for the treatment of neovascular AMD. Current treatment options, such as thermal laser, photodynamic therapy (PDT) with Visudyne® (verteporfin), and Macugen® (pegaptanib) slow down the progression of the disease. Lucentis is unique, in that it has proven to reverse the progression of AMD.

Treatment of neovascular AMD with Lucentis® consists of an initial phase and a subsequent phase. The initial phase for the first three months does not vary and it consists of one intravitreal (into the eye) injection administered, by a qualified ophthalmologist, once a month.<sup>1</sup> The maintenance phase consists of vision monitoring, on a regular basis, and can range from one injection monthly to one injection every three months depending on the measured visual acuity. The estimated annual cost, for the initial and maintenance phase ranges from \$9,450 to \$18,900.<sup>2</sup>

AMD is a serious and debilitating disease affecting the macula (central part of the retina) and causing severe and irreversible vision loss. AMD is a progressive and rapid disease primarily affecting the elderly population (after age 50 and more commonly after age 75). There are two forms of AMD. The more severe form, referred to as “wet” AMD, is caused by the growth of abnormal blood vessels behind the macula that tend to hemorrhage or leak resulting in the formation of scar tissue that causes blind spots and blurred vision. Although only 10% of the overall population has the “wet” form of AMD, this group of people accounts for 90% of those with severe vision loss.<sup>2</sup>

ClaimSecure clients will automatically cover Lucentis® under existing open drug formularies. For clients that subscribe to ClaimSecure Managed Formularies, Lucentis® will be placed under Special Authorization. The Special Authorization program for Lucentis® will ensure that plan members are seen by the appropriate specialists and have a confirmed initial diagnosis of AMD; first try and fail other optional therapies; allow for the possibility to coordinate benefits with the provincial formulary programs given that the age (over 75 years) of the population with a significant prevalence of AMD.

*If you require additional information about Lucentis®, please contact Shellina Sevany, Manager, Clinical Services Department, at (905) 949-3025 or 1-888-479-7587 ext.3025.*

### Recommendation: Full Coverage / Special Authorization

*ClaimSecure reserves the right to amend in part or in its entirety stated special authorization clinical guidelines*

Macugen® is a registered trademark of Pfizer Canada Inc.  
Visudyne® is a registered trademark of Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.

#### References:

- 1) Lucentis® Product Monograph. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc., June 26, 2007
- 2) Lucentis® Submission Binder. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc., July 27, 2007

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\* Based on the Financial Impact Analysis per 100 000 lives covered  
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