Clinical Policy: Corticosteroid Intravitreal Implants (Iluvien, Ozurdex, Retisert)

Reference Number: PA.CP.PHAR.385
Effective Date: 10.17.18
Last Review Date: 07/17/19

Coding Implications
Revision Log

Description
Dexamethasone (Ozurdex®) and fluocinolone acetonide (Iluvien®, Retisert®) intravitreal implants contain a corticosteroid.

FDA Approved Indication(s)
Iluvien is indicated for the treatment of diabetic macular edema in patients who have been previously treated with a course of corticosteroids and did not have a clinically significant rise in intraocular pressure.

Ozurdex is indicated for the treatment of:
- Macular edema following branch retinal vein occlusion (BRVO) or central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO)
- Non-infectious uveitis affecting the posterior segment of the eye
- Diabetic macular edema (DME)

Retisert is indicated for the treatment of chronic non-infectious uveitis affecting the posterior segment of the eye.

Policy/Criteria
Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with PA Health & Wellness® that corticosteroid intravitreal implants are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Macular Edema following BRVO or CRVO (must meet all)**:**
1. Diagnosis of macular edema following BRVO or CRVO;
2. Request is for Ozurdex;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with an ophthalmologist;
4. Failure and/or continued need of both of the following (a and b) unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced (*see Appendix B*):
   a. Intravitreal steroid injections;
   b. Intravitreal anti-VEGF agents;
5. Dose does not exceed 1 implant per eye.

Approval duration: 4 weeks (one implant per eye)

B. Non-Infectious Uveitis (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of non-infectious uveitis affecting the posterior segment of the eye;
2. Request is for Ozurdex or Retisert;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with an ophthalmologist;
4. Failure and/or continued need of all of the following (a, b, and c) unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced (*see Appendix B*):
   a. Intravitreal steroid injections;
   b. Systemic corticosteroid;
   c. Non-biologic immunosuppressive therapy;
5. Dose does not exceed 1 implant per eye.

Approval duration: 4 weeks (one implant per eye)

C. Diabetic Macular Edema (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of DME;
2. Request is for Ozurdex or Iluvien;
3. Prescribed by or in consultation with an ophthalmologist;
4. Failure and/or continued need of both of the following (a and b) unless contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced (*see Appendix B*):
   a. Intravitreal steroid injections;
   b. Intravitreal anti-VEGF agents;
5. Dose does not exceed 1 implant per eye.

Approval duration: 4 weeks (one implant per eye)

D. Other diagnoses/indications

1. Refer to the off-label use policy if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): PA.CP.PMN.53.

II. Continued Therapy

A. All Indications in Section I (must meet all)**:**

1. Currently receiving medication via Pennsylvania Health and Wellness benefit or member has previously met all initial approval criteria or the Continuity of Care Policy (PA.LTSS.PHAR.01) applies;
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. Member meets one of the following (a, b, or c):
   a. At least 6 months have passed since last treatment with Ozurdex;
   b. At least 12 months have passed since last treatment with Iluvien;
   c. At least 30 months have passed since last treatment with Retisert;
4. Dose does not exceed 1 implant per eye.

Approval duration: 4 weeks (one implant per eye)

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2)**:**

1. Currently receiving medication via Pennsylvania Health and Wellness benefit or member has previously met all initial approval criteria or the Continuity of Care Policy (PA.LTSS.PHAR.01) applies.
   Approval duration: Duration of request or 6 months (whichever is less); or

2. Refer to the off-label use policy if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): PA.CP.PMN.53.

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:

A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policies – PA.CP.PMN.53.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key

BRVO: branch retinal vein occlusion
CRVO: central retinal vein occlusion
DME: diabetic macular edema
FDA: Food and Drug Administration

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives

This table provides a listing of preferred alternative therapy recommended in the approval criteria. The drugs listed here may not be a formulary agent for all relevant lines of business and may require prior authorization.

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
Anti-VEGF agents (e.g., bevacizumab, Lucentis®, Eylea®)	**Macular Edema** Refer to prescribing information	Refer to prescribing information
Intravitreal steroid injections (e.g., triamcinolone [Triesence®, Trivaris™], dexamethasone, fluocinolone, etc.)	**Macular Edema and Uveitis** Refer to prescribing information	Refer to prescribing information
Systemic corticosteroids (e.g., prednisone)	**Uveitis** prednisone 5 – 60 mg/day PO in 1 – 4 divided doses	Varies
azathioprine (Azasan®, Imuran®)	**Uveitis** 1.5 – 2 mg/kg/day PO	2.5 mg/kg/day
chlorambucil (Leukeran®)	**Uveitis** 0.2 mg/kg PO QD, then taper to 0.1 mg/kg PO QD or less	0.2 mg/kg/day
cyclophosphamide (Cytoxan®)	**Uveitis** 1 – 2 mg/kg/day PO	N/A
cyclosporine (Sandimmune®, Neoral®)	**Uveitis** 2.5 – 5 mg/kg/day PO in divided doses	5 mg/kg/day
methotrexate (Rheumatrex®)	**Uveitis** 7.5 – 20 mg/week PO	30 mg/week

Drug Name	Dosing Regimen	Dose Limit/ Maximum Dose
mycophenolate mofetil (Cellcept®)	**Uveitis** 500 – 1,000 mg PO BID	3 g/day
tacrolimus (Prograf®)	**Uveitis**	N/A

Therapeutic alternatives are listed as Brand name® (generic) when the drug is available by brand name only and generic (Brand name®) when the drug is available by both brand and generic.

Appendix C: Contraindications

Iluvien is contraindicated in patients with:

- Active or suspected ocular or periocular infections including most viral diseases of the cornea and conjunctiva, including active epithelial herpes simples keratitis (dendritic keratitis), vaccinia, varicella, mycobacterial infections, and fungal diseases
- Glaucoma with cup to disc rations of greater than 0.8

Ozurdex is contraindicated in patients with:

- Active or suspected ocular or periocular infections including most viral diseases of the cornea and conjunctiva, including active epithelial herpes simples keratitis (dendritic keratitis), vaccinia, varicella, mycobacterial infections, and fungal diseases
- Glaucoma with cup to disc rations of greater than 0.8
- Posterior lens capsules that is torn or ruptured because of the risk of migration into the anterior chamber

Retisert is contraindicated in patients with:

- Active viral diseases of the cornea and conjunctiva including epithelial herpes simplex keratitis (dendritic keratitis), vaccinia, and varicella, and also in active bacterial, mycobacterial or fungal infections of the eye.

Appendix D: General Information

- Based on clinical trials with Retisert:
  - Within 3 years post-implantation, approximately 77% of patients will require intraocular pressure (IOP) lowering medications to control intraocular pressure and 37% of patients will require filtering procedures to control intraocular pressure.
  - Following implantation of Retisert, nearly all patients will experience an immediate and temporary decrease in visual acuity in the implanted eye which lasts for approximately one to four weeks post-operatively.
  - During the 3-year post-implantation period, nearly all phakic eyes are expected to develop cataracts and require cataract surgery.
- In one study, intravitreal bevacizumab (1.25 mg) and the dexamethasone (DEX) (0.7 mg) implant were compared in a randomized, Phase II trial called the BEVORDEX study. 79 Forty-two eyes received intravitreal bevacizumab every 4 weeks, and 46 eyes received an intravitreal DEX (0.7 mg) implant every 16 weeks, with a when necessary (PRN) regimen for 12 months. The primary outcome of the study was to gain ten or more letters in the best-corrected distance visual acuity (BCVA) at 12 months, which was achieved in 40% of the bevacizumab-treated eyes and 41% of the DEX implant-treated group

(P=0.99). The mean corneal refractive therapy (CRT) decrease was statistically significant between the groups, and the reduction was 122 µm in the bevacizumab group and 187 µm in the DEX implant group (P=0.015). The mean number of injections over 1 year was 8.6 for the bevacizumab group and 2.7 for the DEX implant group. Finally, in the DEX implant-treated eyes, 11% lost ten or more letters of the BCVA, which was due to cataracts in 4 of 5 cases; none lost ten letters in the bevacizumab-treated eyes.

- The Chart Review of Ozurdex in Macular Edema (CHROME) study evaluated the real-world use, efficacy, and safety of one or more dexamethasone intravitreal implant(s) 0.7 mg (DEX implant) in 120 eyes with macular edema (ME).The mean number of DEX implant injections was 1.7±0.1 in all study eyes; 44.2% of eyes had repeat DEX implant injections (reinjection interval 2.3-4.9 months).
- According to Pommier et al., an average of 2.6 injections of Ozurdex were needed to obtain a 58.6% of patients who gained more than 15 letters, and 51.1% of patients showed macular edema resolution.

V. Dosage and Administration

Drug Name	Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Dexamethasone (Ozurdex)	Macular edema, uveitis	Inject the implant containing 0.7 mg dexamethasone intravitreally	One implant injection per eye every 6 months
Fluocinolone (Iluvien)	Diabetic macular edema	Inject the implant containing 0.19 mg fluocinolone intravitreally	One implant injection per eye every 12 months
Fluocinolone (Retisert)	Uveitis	Inject the implant containing 0.59 mg fluocinolone intravitreally	One implant injection per eye every 30 months

VI. Product Availability

Drug Name	Availability
Dexamethasone (Ozurdex)	Biodegradable intravitreal implant: 0.7 mg
Fluocinolone (Iluvien)	Non-biodegradable intravitreal implant: 0.19 mg
Fluocinolone (Retisert)	Non-biodegradable intravitreal implant: 0.59 mg

VII. References

1. Iluvien Prescribing Information. Alpharetta, GA: Alimera Sciences, Inc. November 2016. Available at: www.iluvien.com. Accessed May 16, 2018.
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9. Lam WC, Albiani DA, Yoganathan P, et al. Real-world assessment of intravitreal dexamethasone implant (0.7 mg) in patients with macular edema: the CHROME study. Clin Ophthalmol. 2015 Jul 10;9:1255-68. doi: 10.2147/OPTH.S80500. eCollection 2015.
10. Pommier S, Meyer F, Guigou S, et al. Long-term real-life efficacy and safety of repeated Ozurdex injections and factors associated with macular edema resolution after retinal vein occlusion: The REMIDO 2 Study. Ophthalmologica. 2016;236(4):186-192.

Coding Implications

Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

HCPCS Codes	Description
J7311	Injection, fluocinolone acetonide intravitreal implant, 0.59 mg (Retisert)
J7312	Injection, dexamethasone intravitreal implant, 0.1 mg
J7313	Injection, fluocinolone acetonide intravitreal implant, 0.19 mg (Iluvien)

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created	10/18	
3Q 2019 annual review: No changes per Statewide PDL implementation 01-01-2020	07/17/19	