Executive Officer Notice : Funding of Ranibizumab under the Ontario Drug Benefit Program

July 31, 2023

Byooviz® (ranibizumab) was approved by Health Canada as a biosimilar to Lucentis⟨™⟩ (ranibizumab). Funding of this product is being aligned with the funding of other biosimilars under the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program, requiring recipients initiating treatment on a biologic drug to start on a biosimilar. This means any new patient receiving treatment should be started on Byooviz®. Biosimilars have similar efficacy and safety as originator biologics and present an opportunity to achieve better value for money for biologic drugs that will help to support the long-term sustainability and accessibility of Ontario's public drug programs.

Ranibizumab is subject to the biosimilar policy with transition anticipated after completion of the current transition phase concluding December 29, 2023. Recipients who are on Lucentis⟨™⟩ will be required to transition to a Health Canada approved biosimilar version of the drug. Further communication will follow.

EO Notice: Biosimilars Policy (March 2023)
https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/opdp_eo/notices/exec_office_eligibility_20230310.pdf

Effective July 31, 2023, Byooviz® will be funded under the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program for eligible ODB recipients.

Byooviz® (ranibizumab) will be listed on the ODB Formulary/Comparative Drug Index (Formulary) as a Limited Use (LU) benefit for the following indications:

- For the treatment of:
    - Neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (AMD)
    - Visual impairment due to diabetic macular edema (DME)
    - Macular edema secondary to retinal vein occlusion (RVO)
    - Choroidal neovascularisation (CNV) secondary to pathologic myopia (PM)

Details of the LU criteria will also be posted in the July 2023 Formulary update, which can be found on the ministry's website at:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/edition_43.aspx

Effective with the July 2023 Formulary update changes to the funding status of Lucentis⟨™⟩ will be as follows:

- RFU (reason for use) Code 655

    - For the treatment of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), diabetic macular edema (DME), branch retinal vein occlusion (BRVO), central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO) and choroidal neovascularization, but only for patients established on Lucentis⟨™⟩ (ranibizumab) therapy prior to July 31, 2023.

    LU Authorization Period: 1 year

Please note that transition code RFU 279 will be activated for Lucentis⟨™⟩ to help transition patients to the new RFU code and criteria. This transition code may be submitted for a claim for a period of three (3) months after the change. It is expected that after three (3) months all patients with a prescription for Lucentis⟨™⟩ have the correct RFU Code and meet the new criteria. The transition code will be effective for three (3) months and deactivated with the October 2023 Formulary update.

Details of the changes to the funding of Lucentis⟨™⟩ will also be posted in the July 2023 Formulary update which can be found on the ministry's website at:
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/edition_43.aspx

To further inform healthcare providers and patients, we have also included a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document for reference purposes.

Additional information:

For pharmacies:

Please call ODB Pharmacy Help Desk at: 1-800-668-6641

For all other health care providers and the public:

Please call ServiceOntario, Infoline at 1-866-532-3161 TTY 1-800-387-5559. In Toronto, TTY 416-327-4282.