

**BEDFORDSHIRE, LUTON AND MILTON KEYNES AREA
PRESCRIBING COMMITTEE (APC)**

**INTRAVITREAL INJECTIONS USED IN
OPHTHALMOLOGY ALGORITHM**

Updated Sept 2022
Ratified by BLMK APC Sept 2022

The following organisations contribute to and participate in the BLMK APC – Bedfordshire Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board; Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust; Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust; Central and North-West London NHS Foundation Trust; East London NHS Foundation Trust; Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS

INTRAVITREAL INJECTIONS USED IN OPHTHALMOLOGY ALGORITHM

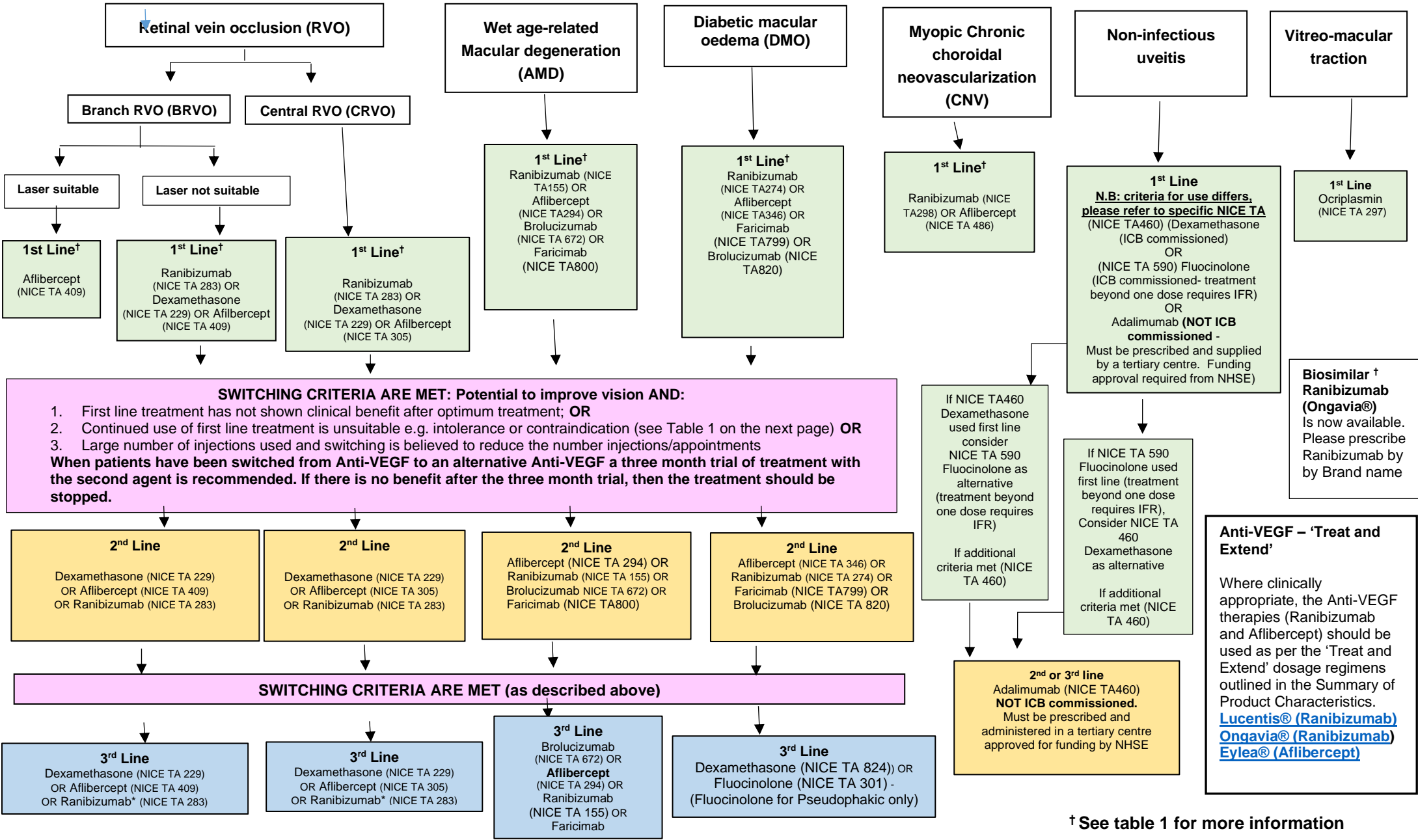


Table 1: Contraindications to steroid and anti-VEGF intravitreal injections

<u>Absolute contraindications</u>	Dexamethasone	Fluocinolone	Aflibercept	Ranibizumab	Brolucizumab	Faricimab
Active or suspected ocular or periocular infection	X	X	X	X	X	X
Active severe intraocular inflammation	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients	X	X	X	X	X	X
Advanced glaucoma which cannot be controlled by medications alone	X	X	-	-	-	-
Aphakic eyes with ruptured posterior lens capsule	X	-	-	-	-	-
Eyes with anterior chamber intraocular lens (ACIOL), iris or transscleral fixated intraocular lens and ruptured posterior lens capsule	X	-	-	-	-	-
Infectious uveitis	-	X	-	-	-	-
Pregnancy or Breast Feeding	-	-	X	X	X	X
Clinical signs of irreversible ischaemic visual function loss	-	-	X	X	X	X

<u>Relative Contraindications</u>	Dexamethasone	Fluocinolone	Aflibercept	Ranibizumab	Brolucizumab	Faricimab	Comments
Raised intraocular pressure (IOP)/family history of raised IOP	X	X	-	-	-	-	
Phakic patients (those who have not had cataract surgery and who do not have a cataract)	-	X	-	-	-	-	

History of ocular viral infection (including herpes simplex)	X	-	-	-	-	-	
Retinal vein occlusion with significant retinal ischaemia	X	-	-	-	-	-	
Patients who cannot or who do not wish to have regular multiple injections	-	-	X	X	X	X	
Patients who have had a myocardial infarction (MI), Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA) or cardiovascular accident (CVA) in the preceding 6 months.	-	-	X	X	X	X	
Females who are of child-bearing age	-	-	X	X	X	X	Effective contraception advised for during treatment at least 3 months after the last dose of treatment
Active systemic infections	-	-	X	X	X	X	
Retinal pigment epithelial tear	-	-	X	X	X	X	Risk factors associated with the development of a retinal pigment epithelial tear after anti-VEGF therapy for wet AMD and potentially also other forms of CNV, include a large and/or high pigment epithelial retinal detachment. When initiating therapy, caution should be used in patients with these risk factors for retinal pigment epithelial tears.
Rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, macular holes and retinal break	-	-	X	X	X	X	Treatment should be withheld in subjects with rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, stage 3 or 4 macular holes or retinal break. Treatment should not be resumed until an adequate repair has been performed.
Subretinal haemorrhage	-	-	X	X	X		The dose should be withheld and treatment should not be resumed earlier than the next scheduled treatment in the event of a subretinal haemorrhage involving the centre of the fovea, or, if the size of the haemorrhage is $\geq 50\%$, of the total lesion area.

BNF/SPC – Additional cautions/safety information :-

Ranibizumab - diabetic macular oedema due to type 1 diabetes; diabetic patients with HbA_{1c} over 12%; uncontrolled hypertension; an intra-ocular pressure of ≥30 mmHg

Aflibercept - diabetic patients with uncontrolled hypertension; poorly controlled glaucoma. **MHRA/CHM advice: Eylea® 40 mg/mL (aflibercept solution for intravitreal injection): higher risk of intraocular pressure increase with the pre-filled syringe (April 2021)**

Brolucizumab - poorly controlled glaucoma (do not use while intra-ocular pressure is 30 mmHg or higher); Intraocular inflammation, including retinal vasculitis and/or retinal vascular occlusion. **MHRA/CHM advice: Brolucizumab (Beovu®): risk of intraocular inflammation and retinal vascular occlusion increased with short dosing intervals (January 2022);** Diabetic patients with HbA_{1c} greater than 10% or with proliferative diabetic retinopathy; uncontrolled hypertension.

Faricimab - From SPC – poorly controlled glaucoma; diabetic patients with uncontrolled hypertension; DMO patients with HbA_{1c} over 10%.

Commissioning Notes:

- All drugs listed in this guideline will require completion of a High Cost Drugs Proforma via Blueteq.
- Biosimilar Ranibizumab (Ongavia®), a cost-effective option, is now available. Please prescribe Ranibizumab by Brand name. Ongavia® has been added to both Milton Keynes and Bedfordshire and Luton Joint Formularies (September 2022)
- In accordance with NICE principles – where a range of suitable treatment options are available, choose the least expensive treatment, taking account of administration costs, dosage, price per dose and commercial arrangements.

Abbreviations

AMD	Age related macular degeneration
DMO	Diabetic macular oedema
RVO	Retinal vein occlusion
BRVO	Branch retinal vein occlusion
CRVO	Central retinal vein occlusion
CNV	Choroidal neovascularisation
CI	Contraindication
MO	Macular oedema
RCO	Royal College of Ophthalmologists

Updated: September 2022

References: August 2022 update refs 1,3,4,5,6,7,9 10,11,12 checked.

1. The Royal College of Ophthalmologists Retinal vein occlusion (RVO) clinical guideline, January 2022. [Retinal-Vein-Occlusion-Guidelines-2022.pdf \(rcophth.ac.uk\)](https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/2013-SCI-301-FINAL-DR-GUIDELINES-DEC-2012-updated-July-2013.pdf), accessed 03/08/2022
2. The Royal College of Ophthalmologists Diabetic retinopathies clinical guideline, 2012, updated July 2013. <https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/2013-SCI-301-FINAL-DR-GUIDELINES-DEC-2012-updated-July-2013.pdf>
3. Aflibercept: Eylea 40 mg/ml solution for injection in a vial <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/27224>, accessed 03/08/2022

4. Dexamethasone: OZURDEX 700 micrograms intravitreal implant in applicator SPC: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/23422>
5. Fluocinolone acetonide: ILUVIEN 190 micrograms intravitreal implant in applicator SPC: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/27636>
6. Ranibizumab: Lucentis® 10 mg/ml solution for injection SPC: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/19409>, accessed 03/08/2022
7. eBNF <https://bnf.nice.org.uk/>, accessed 03/08/2022
8. Age-related macular degeneration, NICE guideline [NG82] Published date: January 2018, <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng82>
9. Brolocizumab: Beovu® 120mg/ml solution in pre-filled syringe or 120mg/ml solution for injection, <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/11145>, accessed 03/08/2022
10. Ranibizumab: Ongavia® 10mg/ml solution for injection SPC: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/13885>, accessed 03/08/2022
11. **Faricimab: Vabysmo® 120 mg/mL solution for injection SPC:** <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/13741>, accessed 03/08/2022
12. NICE FAD **Dexamethasone intravitreal implant for treating diabetic macular oedema** (Partial update to TA 349)
13. NICE TAs as included in the text