



# Effective Health Care

## Treatment of Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration

### Nomination Summary Document

#### Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- There is insufficient research on treatment of neovascular age-related macular degeneration for a full systematic review. However, ongoing research or activities are underway; therefore, this topic will be revisited in the future when more data becomes available.

#### Topic Description

**Nominator:** Individual

**Nomination Summary:** The nominator questions the comparative effectiveness of interventions for neovascular age-related macular degeneration. He states that monotherapies as well as combinations of therapies need to be considered to assess optimal treatment strategies. The nominator requests that all visual benefits and adverse events be considered as well as quality-of-life evaluations. In addition, he states that the considerable financial consequences of the disease must be addressed.

**Key Questions from Nominator:** 1. What is the comparative effectiveness of interventions for neovascular age-related macular degeneration (AMD), including all visual benefits and all adverse events?

#### Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the leading cause of severe, irreversible vision impairment in developed countries. Based on the recent practice parameter from the American Academy of Ophthalmology, it appears that many of the clinical questions that are most timely to providers right now deal with the comparative effectiveness of the vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitors (Macugen (pegaptanib sodium), Lucentis (ranibizumab), and Avastin (bevacizumab)). A literature scan on this topic identified very few trials that addressed the comparative effectiveness of these treatments.
- Multiple ongoing clinical trials were identified on this subject. In addition, the National Eye Institute recently issued a challenge grant on the comparative effectiveness of treatments for age-related macular degeneration and diabetic eye diseases and disorders. Because of the current lack of

comparative effectiveness literature on this subject and the multiple ongoing studies, this topic will be revisited in the future when more data is available.