I. POLICY

It is the policy of UPMC Health Plan to maintain a prior authorization process that promotes appropriate utilization of specific drugs with potential for misuse or limited indications. This process involves a review using Food and Drug Administration (FDA) criteria to make a determination of Medical Necessity, as defined in CRM.015-Medical Necessity, and approval by the Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee of the criteria for prior authorization, as described in RX.003-Prior Authorization Process.

The drug, ranibizumab (Lucentis) is subject to the prior authorization process.

II. DEFINITIONS

N/A

III. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to define the Prior Authorization Process for ranibizumab (Lucentis).

IV. SCOPE

This policy applies to the Pharmacy Services Department.
V. PROCEDURE

Ranibizumab (Lucentis) is indicated for the treatment of members with neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration.

Initial Authorization Criteria:

- Member must be at least 18 years of age.
- Prescriber must be an ophthalmologist or an ophthalmic surgeon.
- Member must have a diagnosis of neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration.
- Member must not have an active ocular or periocular infection.
- For the diagnosis of wet age-related macular degeneration, dosing is as follows:
  - 0.5mg administered by intravitreal injection once a month. The use of Lucentis beyond 24 months has not been established
- Authorization will be given for 12 months of treatment.

Reauthorization Criteria:

All prior authorization renewals will be reviewed on an annual basis to determine the Medical Necessity for continuation of therapy. Authorization may be extended an additional 12 months based upon chart documentation from the prescriber that the member’s disease has improved based upon the prescriber’s assessment while on therapy. At this time, there is no evidence of benefit from treatment beyond 24 months.

Limitations:

If a member does not meet the above approval criteria, the request will be sent for review by a UPMC Health Plan Medical Director.

VI. BIBLIOGRAPHY