

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 10|01|2015

**POLICY LAST UPDATED:** 08|05|2016

## OVERVIEW

Ocriplasmin (Jetrea®) is a recombinant truncated form of human plasmin, a proteolytic enzyme that breaks down protein components at the vitreoretinal interface in the eye. Ocriplasmin is injected into the affected eye (intravitreal) as a single dose and can induce vitreous liquefaction and separation from the retina. Its proposed use is for the treatment of symptomatic vitreomacular adhesion (VMA) and vitreomacular traction (VMT).

## PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Prior authorization is not required.

## POLICY STATEMENT

### BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial Products

A single intravitreal injection of ocriplasmin may be considered medically necessary for treatment of an eye with symptomatic vitreomacular adhesion (VMA) or vitreomacular traction

The use of intravitreal ocriplasmin is considered not medically necessary in all other situations, including use of repeat injections of ocriplasmin.

## MEDICAL CRITERIA

None

## BACKGROUND

The vitreous is a gel-like fluid within the eye that adheres completely to the surface of the retina. The consistency of the vitreous and its adhesion to the retina are maintained by several proteins including collagen, laminin, and fibronectin. With aging, the proteins in the vitreous break down, resulting in liquefaction of the vitreous and eventual separation of the vitreous from the retina, a process called posterior vitreous detachment (PVD).

The process of vitreous detachment usually proceeds without incident, but sometimes the separation is not complete. The adhesion usually remains at sites where the bonds between the vitreous and retina are the strongest. In some cases, the adhesion can cause visual symptoms. The traction caused by the adherent vitreous can cause deformation of the retina, edema, and full-thickness macular holes (FTMH). Although the terms are sometimes used synonymously, the International Vitreomacular Traction Study Group has defined vitreomacular adhesion (VMA) as adhesion at the macula without detectable changes in retinal morphology and vitreomacular traction (VMT) as adhesion with retinal morphologic changes but without full-thickness defect.<sup>1</sup> Both VMA and VMT can be focal or diffuse.

Symptoms can vary, but may include diminished visual acuity, distorted vision (metamorphopsia), and central field defect. Patients are usually observed until resolution or worsening, in which case vitrectomy is the standard treatment. Spontaneous release of VMA/VMT occurs in about 30% of cases over a period of 1 to 2 years, and observation is usually indicated because vitrectomy has risks and an almost certain occurrence of cataract in the years following the procedure

Ocriplasmin is a recombinant product that is a shortened form of the protease plasmin. Early studies of ocriplasmin were conducted in patients scheduled to have vitrectomy and established doses that showed some effect in inducing PVD. Studies by Benz et al, de Smet et al, and Stalmans et al led to the design and conduct of the pivotal clinical trials described in the Rationale section of this evidence review.

## COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for limitations of benefits/coverage when the services are not medically necessary.

## CODING

### BlueCHIP for Medicare and Commercial Products:

The following HCPCS and CPT codes are covered with one of the ICD10 codes listed in the code range below

J7316: Injection, Ocriplasmin, 0.125 mg

ICD10-CM Range: H43.821-H43.829

## RELATED POLICIES

None

## PUBLISHED

Provider Update, October 2016

Provider Update, August 2015

## REFERENCES:

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4. de Smet MD, Gandorfer A, Stalmans P, et al. Microplasmin intravitreal administration in patients with vitreomacular traction scheduled for vitrectomy: the MIVI I trial. *Ophthalmology*. Jul 2009;116(7):1349-1355, 1355 e1341-1342. PMID 19447497
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6. Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association Technology Evaluation Center (TEC). Ocriplasmin for symptomatic vitreomacular adhesion. *TEC Assessments 2013*. 2013;Volume 28, Tab TBA. PMID
7. Stalmans P, Benz MS, Gandorfer A, et al. Enzymatic vitreolysis with ocriplasmin for vitreomacular traction and macular holes. *N Engl J Med*. Aug 16 2012;367(7):606-615. PMID 22894573
8. National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Ocriplasmin for treating vitreomacular traction. 2013; TA297:<http://publications.nice.org.uk/ocriplasmin-for-treating-vitreomacular-traction-ta297/guidance>. Last accessed June, 2014.
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10.Drenser K, Girach A, Capone A, Jr. A randomized, placebo-controlled study of intravitreal ocriplasmin in pediatric patients scheduled for vitrectomy. *Retina*. Mar 2016;36(3):565-575. PMID 26398685

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