

## **ONTARIO FUNDS LUCENTIS FOR THE TREATMENT OF WET AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION (AMD)**

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Ontario will now fund Lucentis under its public drug programs for Ontarians with neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

### **AMD**

AMD is a chronic disease affecting central vision in people typically aged fifty and older. There are two basic types of AMD, dry and wet. Both types affect the eye's macula, located in the centre of the retina, which is responsible for detailed visual activities such as reading and driving. Wet AMD is more severe and involves the leaking of blood and other fluids into the macula. Approximately 10,000 patients are treated for AMD in Ontario each year.

### **Lucentis**

Lucentis is a prescription medicine developed for the treatment of patients with wet AMD. It is administered as an injection into the eye by a physician and contains ranibizumab, an anti-neovascularisation agent designed to block the growth of abnormal blood vessels that can leak blood and other fluids. Clinical research has shown that Lucentis not only stops vision deterioration associated with AMD, but improves visual capacity in 40 per cent of cases.

Other prescription medicines have been used to treat patients with AMD in Canada. Visudyne, currently offered under Ontario's Public Drug Programs (OPDP), is a form of photodynamic therapy that can stem the loss of vision associated with AMD.

For more information on AMD and Lucentis, visit:

- [Health Canada](#)
- [Ontario Public Drug Programs](#)