

Important Update About Ophthalmic Drug (Avastin) for Medicare Advantage Providers

Florida Blue is aware of a product discontinuation initiated by Pine Pharmaceuticals that could impact the supply of compounded bevacizumab (Avastin®) for ophthalmic use.

Summary of Facility's Product Discontinuation

Pine Pharmaceuticals is one of the facilities that has produced compounded bevacizumab for ophthalmic use. On October 11, Pine Pharmaceuticals announced it stopped production of compounded bevacizumab for ophthalmic use after an inspection by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The inspection led to concerns related to product sterility and quality control issues.

Step Therapy Requirement

Compounded bevacizumab is a preferred product included on the list of Step Therapy medications defined by Florida Blue. The list also includes non-preferred alternatives for ophthalmic use. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has authorized Medicare Advantage plans to use Step Therapy for Part B drugs as part of a patient-centered care coordination program. Step Therapy is required, and the definition of medical necessity must be met for certain higher-cost, non-preferred medications.

Alternate Sources

There are two other 503B compounding facilities, Fagron Sterile Services, LLC and Leiters Health, approved to prepare ophthalmic bevacizumab – the preferred product. Providers have the option to obtain bevacizumab from these suppliers. If you are unable to acquire the medication from an alternate source, you can request another option from the list of Step Therapy non-preferred drugs (pre-authorization applies).

Note: Step Therapy may only be applied to new prescriptions or administrations of Part B drugs for members who are not actively receiving the affected medication.

More information about [Step Therapy and the current list of medications](#) are available at FloridaBlue.com/Providers.

To learn more about the compounded product recall, please visit the FDA website at [FDA.gov](https://www.fda.gov).