

# Aflibercept for treating diabetic macular oedema

Information for the public

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[www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)

## What has NICE said?

Aflibercept (Eylea) injections are recommended as a possible treatment for some people with sight problems caused by diabetic macular oedema, as explained below.

## What does this mean for me?

If you have diabetic macular oedema and the central retina of your eye is 400 micrometres thick or more before treatment, and your doctor thinks that aflibercept is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

Aflibercept injections should be available on the NHS within 3 months of the guidance being issued.

If you are already having aflibercept injections for diabetic macular oedema and the central retinal thickness was less than 400 micrometres when treatment started, you should be able to continue having them until you and your doctor decide it is the right time to stop.

## Why has NICE said this?

NICE looks at how well treatments work in relation to how much they cost compared with other treatments available on the NHS.

Aflibercept was recommended because the benefits to patients justify its cost.

## The condition and the treatment

Diabetic macular oedema affects sight in people with diabetes. The macula is the central part of the retina at the back of the eye. Oedema is a build up of fluid. In diabetic macular oedema, there is abnormal growth of new blood vessels in the macula. These vessels leak fluid, causing the macula to swell and become thicker, leading to problems with sight.

Aflibercept (Eylea) is given by injection into the eye. It works by blocking a substance that stimulates the abnormal growth of blood vessels in the macula.

## Sources of advice and support

- Diabetes UK, 0345 123 2399, [www.diabetes.org.uk](http://www.diabetes.org.uk)
- Fight for Sight, 0207 264 3900, [www.fightforsight.org.uk](http://www.fightforsight.org.uk)
- Macular Society, 0300 3030 111, [www.macularsociety.org](http://www.macularsociety.org)
- Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), 0303 123 9999, [www.rnib.org.uk](http://www.rnib.org.uk)

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## Accreditation

