

Eligibility criteria for dexamethasone intravitreal implants

Southern Cross will only reimburse the cost of dexamethasone intravitreal implants under a member's policy when criteria **1 and 2** below are met for that member.

1. The member obtains the PHARMAC subsidy for the implant.

and

2. The member meets the PHARMAC subsidy application requirements for the indications below.

Diabetic macular oedema

Initial application

The application to PHARMAC must be made by an ophthalmologist. Approvals are valid for 12 months for applications meeting the following criteria (1, 2, 3 and 4):

1. The patient has diabetic macular oedema with pseudophakic lens

and

2. The patient has reduced visual acuity of between 6/9 - 6/48 with functional awareness of reduction in vision

and

3. The patient's disease has progressed despite 3 injections with bevacizumab **OR** the patient is unsuitable or contraindicated to treatment with anti-VEGF agent

and

4. Dexamethasone implants are to be administered not more frequently than once every 4 months into each eye, and up to a maximum of 3 implants per eye per year.

Renewal

The application to PHARMAC must be made by an ophthalmologist. Approvals are valid for 12 months for applications meeting the following criteria (1 and 2):

1. The patient's vision is stable or has improved (prescriber determined)

and

2. Dexamethasone implants are to be administered not more frequently than once every 4 months into each eye, and up to a maximum of 3 implants per eye per year.

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Women of child bearing age with diabetic macular oedema

Initial application

The application to PHARMAC must be made by an ophthalmologist. Approvals are valid for 12 months for applications meeting the following criteria (1, 2, 3 and 4):

1. The patient has diabetic macular oedema
and
2. The patient has reduced visual acuity of between 6/9 - 6/48 with functional awareness of reduction in vision
and
3. The patient is of child bearing potential and has not yet completed a family
and
4. Dexamethasone implants are to be administered not more frequently than once every 4 months into each eye, and up to a maximum of 3 implants per eye per year.

Renewal

The application to PHARMAC must be made by an ophthalmologist. Approvals are valid for 12 months for applications meeting the following criteria (1, 2 and 3):

1. The patient's vision is stable or has improved (prescriber determined)
and
2. The patient is of child bearing potential and has not yet completed a family
and
3. Dexamethasone implants are to be administered not more frequently than once every 4 months into each eye, and up to a maximum of 3 implants per eye per year.