



## Evidence Based Guideline

# Intravitreal Drug Delivery System for Ganciclovir

**File Name:** intravitreal\_drug\_delivery\_system\_for\_ganciclovir  
**Guideline Number:** EBG.DRU4150  
**Origination:** 12/1997  
**Last Review:** 3/2003

**Active guideline, no longer scheduled for routine literature review**

### Description of Procedure or Service

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Intravitreal drug delivery is a device that is surgically implanted in the posterior segment of the eye. This device administers ganciclovir directly into the [vitreous humor](#). The implant remains active for approximately five to eight months. The implantable device may sometimes be referred to by its trademark names: Vitrasert, Mark I, or Mark II.

### Evidence Based Guideline for Intravitreal Drug Delivery System for Ganciclovir

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Intravitreal drug delivery system for ganciclovir may be appropriate for the indications listed below:

- ◆ for progressive retinopathy when the patient is already being treated with IV ganciclovir; and/or
- ◆ if the patient cannot tolerate intravenous ganciclovir therapy.

Ganciclovir implants remain active for approximately five to eight months. Intravitreal insertion of the implant may be appropriate for up to three times a year.

### Medical Evidence regarding Intravitreal Drug Delivery System for Ganciclovir indicates it is not recommended in the following situations:

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Intravitreal drug delivery system for ganciclovir is not recommended for any indication other than those cited above.

### Benefits Application

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Please refer to certificate for availability of benefit. This guideline relates only to the services or supplies described herein. Benefits may vary according to benefit design; therefore certificate language should be reviewed before applying the terms of the policy.

### Billing/Coding/Physician Documentation Information

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This policy may apply to the following codes. Inclusion of a code in this section does not guarantee that it will be reimbursed. For further information on reimbursement guidelines, please see Administrative Poli-

## Policy: Intravitreal Drug Delivery System for Ganciclovir

cies on the Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina web site at [www.bcbsnc.com](http://www.bcbsnc.com). They are listed in the Category Search on the Medical Policy search page.

*Applicable codes: 67027; J7310*

### Medical Term Definitions

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#### **Vitreous humor**

a gel like substance that fills the eyeball between the lens and the retina.

### Scientific Background and Reference Sources

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MEDLINE search January 1996 through December 1997

Consultant Review 12/97

Medical Policy Advisory Group - 12/99

Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel - 4/2001

Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel - 3/2003

### Policy Implementation/Update Information

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|---------|---|
| 12/97   | Original Policy developed.  |
| 8/98    | Minor changes in wording and punctuation  |
| 9/98    | Reformatted, Description of Procedure or Service changed, Medical Term Definitions added.   |
| 12/99   | Medical Policy Advisory Group   |
| 10/00   | System coding changes.  |
| 4/01    | Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel review. Removed statement indicating that the implant has to be removed once the medication has been depleted and then replaced.  |
| 5/03    | Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel review 3/24/2003. Added information regarding allowing up to three insertions per year under Policy Guidelines. Added code J7310 to Billing/Coding Section. Policy status changed to: "Active policy, no longer scheduled for routine literature review". |
| 4/04    | Benefits Application and Billing/Coding sections updated for consistency.   |
| 10/2/06 | Medical Policy changed to Evidence Based Guideline.   |

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Medical policy is not an authorization, certification, explanation of benefits or a contract. Benefits and eligibility are determined before medical guidelines and payment guidelines are applied. Benefits are determined by the group contract and subscriber certificate that is in effect at the time services are rendered. This document is solely provided for informational purposes only and is based on research of current medical literature and review of common medical practices in the treatment and diagnosis of disease. Medical practices and knowledge are constantly changing and BCBSNC reserves the right to review and revise its medical policies periodically.