

**Eylea® 40 mg/ml solution for injection in a vial (afibercept) Prescribing Information**  
(Refer to full Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) before prescribing)

**Presentation:** 1 ml solution for injection contains 40 mg aflibercept. Each vial contains 100 microlitres, equivalent to 4 mg aflibercept. **Indication(s):** Treatment of neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (wAMD), macular oedema secondary to retinal vein occlusion (branch RVO or central RVO), visual impairment due to diabetic macular oedema (DMO) in adults and visual impairment due to myopic choroidal neovascularisation (myopic CNV). **Posology & method of administration:** For intravitreal injection only. Must be administered according to medical standards and applicable guidelines by a qualified physician experienced in administering intravitreal injections. Each vial should only be used for the treatment of a single eye. Extraction of multiple doses from a single vial may increase the risk of contamination and subsequent infection. The vial contains more than the recommended dose of 2 mg. The extractable volume of the vial (100 microlitres) is not to be used in total. The excess volume should be expelled before injecting. Refer to SmPC for full details. **Adults:** The recommended dose is 2 mg aflibercept, equivalent to 50 microlitres. For wAMD treatment is initiated with 1 injection per month for 3 consecutive doses. The treatment interval is then extended to 2 months. Based on the physician's judgement of visual and/or anatomic outcomes, the treatment interval may be maintained at 2 months or further extended using a treat-and-extend dosing regimen, where injection intervals are increased in 2- or 4-weekly increments to maintain stable visual and/or anatomic outcomes. If visual and/or anatomic outcomes deteriorate, the treatment interval should be shortened accordingly to a minimum of 2 months during the first 12 months of treatment. There is no requirement for monitoring between injections. Based on the physician's judgement the schedule of monitoring visits may be more frequent than the injection visits. Treatment intervals greater than 4 months between injections have not been studied. For RVO (branch RVO or central RVO), after the initial injection, treatment is given monthly at intervals not shorter than 1 month. Discontinue if visual and anatomic outcomes indicate that the patient is not benefiting from continued treatment. Treat monthly until maximum visual acuity and/or no signs of disease activity. Three or more consecutive, monthly injections may be needed. Treatment may then be continued with a treat-and-extend regimen with gradually increased treatment intervals to maintain stable visual and/or anatomic outcomes, however there are insufficient data to conclude on the length of these intervals. Shorten treatment intervals if visual and/or anatomic outcomes deteriorate. The monitoring and treatment schedule should be determined by the treating physician based on the individual patient's response. For DMO, initiate treatment with 1 injection/month for 5 consecutive doses, followed by 1 injection every 2 months. No requirement for monitoring between injections. After the first 12 months of treatment, and based on visual and/or anatomic outcomes, the treatment interval may be extended such as with a treat-and-extend dosing regimen, where the treatment intervals are gradually increased to maintain stable visual and/or anatomic outcomes; however there are insufficient data to conclude on the length of these intervals. If visual and/or anatomic outcomes deteriorate, the treatment interval should be shortened accordingly. The schedule for monitoring should therefore be determined by the treating physician and may be more frequent than the schedule of injections. If visual and anatomic outcomes indicate that the patient is not benefiting from continued treatment, treatment should be discontinued. For myopic CNV, a single injection is to be administered. Additional doses may be administered if visual and/or anatomic outcomes indicate that the disease persists. Recurrences should be treated as a new manifestation of the disease. The schedule for monitoring should be determined by the treating physician. The interval between 2 doses should not be shorter than 1 month. **Hepatic and/or renal impairment:** No specific studies have been conducted. Available data do not suggest a need for a dose adjustment. **Elderly population:** No special considerations are needed. Limited experience in those with DMO over 75 years old. **Paediatric population:** No data available. **Contraindications:** Hypersensitivity to active substance or any excipient; active or suspected ocular or periocular infection; active severe intraocular inflammation. **Warnings & precautions:** As with other intravitreal therapies endophthalmitis, intraocular inflammation, rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, retinal tear and iatrogenic traumatic cataract have been reported. Aseptic injection technique is essential. Patients should be monitored during the week following the injection to permit early treatment if an infection occurs. Patients must report any symptoms of endophthalmitis or any of the above mentioned events without delay. Increases in intraocular pressure have been seen within 60 minutes of intravitreal injection; special precaution is needed in patients with poorly controlled glaucoma (do not inject while the intraocular pressure is  $\geq 30$  mmHg). Immediately after injection, monitor intraocular pressure and perfusion of optic nerve head and manage appropriately. There is a potential for immunogenicity as with other therapeutic

proteins; patients should report any signs or symptoms of intraocular inflammation e.g pain, photophobia or redness, which may be a clinical sign of hypersensitivity. Systemic adverse events including non-ocular haemorrhages and arterial thromboembolic events have been reported following intravitreal injection of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitors. Safety and efficacy of concurrent use in both eyes have not been systemically studied. No data is available on concomitant use of Eylea with other anti-VEGF medicinal products (systemic or ocular). Caution in patients with risk factors for development of retinal pigment epithelial tears including large and/or high pigment epithelial retinal detachment. Withhold treatment in patients with: rhegmatogenous retinal detachment or stage 3 or 4 macular holes; with retinal break and do not resume treatment until the break is adequately repaired. Withhold treatment and do not resume before next scheduled treatment if there is: decrease in best-corrected visual acuity of  $\geq 30$  letters compared with the last assessment; central foveal subretinal haemorrhage, or haemorrhage  $\geq 50\%$ , of total lesion area. Do not treat in the 28 days prior to or following performed or planned intraocular surgery. Eylea should not be used in pregnancy unless the potential benefit outweighs the potential risk to the foetus. Women of childbearing potential have to use effective contraception during treatment and for at least 3 months after the last intravitreal injection. In patients presenting with clinical signs of irreversible ischaemic visual function loss, aflibercept treatment is not recommended. Populations with limited data: There is limited experience in DMO due to type 1 diabetes or in diabetic patients with an HbA1c over 12% or with proliferative diabetic retinopathy. Eylea has not been studied in patients with active systemic infections, concurrent eye conditions such as retinal detachment or macular hole, or in diabetic patients with uncontrolled hypertension. This lack of information should be considered when treating such patients. In myopic CNV there is no experience with Eylea in the treatment of non-Asian patients, patients who have previously undergone treatment for myopic CNV, and patients with extrafoveal lesions. **Interactions:** No available data. **Fertility, pregnancy & lactation:** Not recommended during pregnancy unless potential benefit outweighs potential risk to the foetus. No data available in pregnant women. Studies in animals have shown embryo-foetal toxicity. Women of childbearing potential have to use effective contraception during treatment and for at least 3 months after the last injection. Not recommended during breastfeeding. Excretion in human milk: unknown. Male and female fertility impairment seen in animal studies with high systemic exposure not expected after ocular administration with very low systemic exposure. **Effects on ability to drive and use machines:** Possible temporary visual disturbances. Patients should not drive or use machines if vision inadequate. **Undesirable effects:** *Very common:* Visual acuity reduced, conjunctival haemorrhage (wAMD phase III studies: increased incidence in patients receiving anti-thrombotic agents), eye pain. *Common:* retinal pigment epithelial tear (known to be associated with wAMD; observed in wAMD studies only), detachment of the retinal pigment epithelium, retinal degeneration, vitreous haemorrhage, cataract (nuclear or subcapsular), corneal abrasion or erosion, increased intraocular pressure, blurred vision, vitreous floaters, vitreous detachment, injection site pain, foreign body sensation in eyes, increased lacrimation, eyelid oedema, injection site haemorrhage, punctate keratitis, conjunctival or ocular hyperaemia. *Serious: cf. CIW&P - in addition:* blindness, culture positive and culture negative endophthalmitis, cataract traumatic, transient increased intraocular pressure, vitreous detachment, retinal detachment or tear, hypersensitivity (during the post-marketing period, reports of hypersensitivity included rash, pruritus, urticaria, and isolated cases of severe anaphylactic/anaphylactoid reactions), vitreous haemorrhage, cortical cataract, lenticular opacities, corneal epithelium defect/erosion, vitritis, uveitis, iritis, iridocyclitis, anterior chamber flare, arterial thromboembolic events (ATEs) are adverse events potentially related to systemic VEGF inhibition. There is a theoretical risk of arterial thromboembolic events, including stroke and myocardial infarction, following intravitreal use of VEGF inhibitors. As with all therapeutic proteins, there is a potential for immunogenicity. Consult the SmPC in relation to other side effects. **Overdose:** Monitor intraocular pressure and treat if required. **Incompatibilities:** Do not mix with other medicinal products. **Special Precautions for Storage:** Store in a refrigerator (2°C to 8°C). Do not freeze. Unopened vials may be stored at room temperature (below 25°C) for up to 24 hours before use. **Legal Category:** POM. **Package Quantities & Basic NHS Costs:** Single vial pack £816.00. **MA Number(s):** EU/1/12/797/002. **Further information available from:** Bayer plc, 400 South Oak Way, Reading RG2 6AD, United Kingdom. Telephone: 0118 206 3000. **Date of preparation:** July 2018.

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Adverse events should be reported. Reporting forms and information can be found at [www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard) or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store.

Adverse events should also be reported to Bayer plc. Tel.: 0118 2063500, Fax.: 0118 2063703, Email: [pvuk@bayer.com](mailto:pvuk@bayer.com)