

Ocular Photodynamic Therapy with Verteporfin for Macular Degeneration (#CAG-00066N)

Report from September 13, 2000 Meeting

Subject: Ocular Photodynamic Therapy (OPT) with Verteporfin

Purpose: HCFA held a meeting with representatives from Johns Hopkins University to discuss the agency's interest in sponsoring a research project to determine whether this technology is being appropriately disseminated.

Date: September 13, 2000; 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Place: Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA)

Participants: HCFA: Svati Patel, Mike Londner, Poppy Rotter, Jackie Sheridan, Kevin Gerold, Ken Marsalek, Shana Olshan, and Sean Tunis.
Non-HCFA: Oliver Schein, Neil Bressler, and Lisa Lubomski.

Summary: This meeting was held to discuss the HCFA's interest in pursuing a research project designed to assess the appropriate dissemination of OPT and verteporfin. Dr. Neil Bressler provided a brief overview of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and the results of the Treatment of AMD with Photodynamic Therapy (TAP) trial. Dr. Oliver Schein discussed the potential for over-application of this therapy and the potential costs associated with such inappropriate use of OPT. The goal of this research study would to develop and test a program which seeks to optimize the cost-effective application of OPT to Medicare beneficiaries. HCFA provided information on the different funding avenues that might be available to Drs. Schein and Bressler.

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