

Aflibercept biosimilar

What is aflibercept?

Aflibercept belongs to a group of medicines called anti-VEGF (Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor) and Placental Growth Factor (PIGF) agents which stop the growth of new abnormal blood vessels in the eye which may leak fluid or bleed. Aflibercept helps to stabilise and may improve vision loss.

What is biosimilar aflibercept?

Biosimilar aflibercept is a highly similar copy of the original aflibercept medicine. The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines a biosimilar as a medicine that is similar in terms of quality, safety and effectiveness to the original licensed medicine.

Are biosimilars safe?

Yes. All medicines must pass rigorous tests for quality, biological activity, safety and effectiveness. Biosimilar medicines pass the same tests as the original medicine and are regulated by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

What does treatment with biosimilar aflibercept mean for you?

Whether you are due to start treatment with aflibercept for the first time or have agreed with your clinician that your treatment will change from Eylea® to biosimilar aflibercept - Afqlir®, you can expect the same results.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) produces guidance for health care. If NICE recommends the original biological medicine in their guidance, the same recommendation applies to the biosimilar medicines.

All versions of aflibercept can cause similar side effects. If you experience any problems with your treatment, report it promptly to your treating clinician, nurse or pharmacist.

What are the benefits of biosimilars?

Many original biological medicines are expensive and the number of conditions they treat is increasing. Biosimilar medicines are highly similar to the original medicines and have the same quality, safety and effectiveness as well as being less expensive. Therefore, the savings made by using biosimilars allow the NHS to treat more patients and invest in new medicines to further improve patient care.

Further information

If you have further questions about aflibercept or biosimilars, then please speak to a member of your Ophthalmology Team. Alternatively, you can contact the Pharmacy Dedicated Patient Helpline, contact details are below.

Additional information

- **Specialist Pharmacy Service** <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/>
- **Macular Society** www.macularsociety.org/support/
Helpline 0300 3030 111

Useful contact details

East and North Hertfordshire Teaching NHS Trust:

- Website www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk
- Telephone 01438 314333

Pharmacy Dedicated Patient Helpline:

- Telephone: 01438 286150 (Monday to Friday, 9am - 12 noon and 2pm - 4pm)
- Email - medinfo.entr@nhs.net

Leaflet information

Reference: The information in this leaflet is based on the original version prepared by the NHS Specialist Pharmacy Service (Sept 2025)

**You can request this information in a different format or another language;
please speak to your doctor or nurse.**

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