

## Sample Appeal Letter for VABYSMO™ (faricimab-svoa)

### Some Key Reminders:

- You may use an appeal letter for a claim (when reimbursement for a claim is underpaid or denied) or when a prior authorization is denied
  - Please indicate the type of appeal and the level of appeal for which you are filing
  - Include the appropriate ICD-10-CM diagnosis code(s)
  - Please ensure the treating physician signs the letter
- 

[Date]

[Payer name]

ATTN: APPEALS

[Payer contact name]

[Payer address]

[City, State ZIP]

Re: Denial for VABYSMO™ (faricimab-svoa)

Patient: [Patient's first and last name]

Date of Birth: [MM/DD/YYYY]

Subscriber ID #: [Insurance ID #]

Subscriber Group #: [Insurance group #]

Case ID Number: [Case ID Number (if available)]

Dates of Service: [Include all denied dates of service]

Dear [Appeals Reviewer],

I am writing to request [a/an] [indicate level of appeal: 1st, 2nd, etc.] [appeal/redetermination/reconsideration] of the above on behalf of my patient, [Patient's first and last name]. I understand from your letter that the [claim/reimbursement] was [denied/underpaid] based on [denial reason(s)]. I would like to address [the reason/those reasons] now. I would appreciate prompt review of the enclosed information demonstrating medical necessity and coverage of VABYSMO™ (faricimab-svoa).

or

I am writing to request [a/an] [indicate level of appeal: 1st, 2nd, etc.] [appeal/redetermination/reconsideration] of the above on behalf of my patient, [Patient's first and last name]. I acknowledge your health plan's policy and I understand from your prior authorization denial letter that the denials were based on [denial reason(s)]. I would like to address [the reason/those reasons] now. I would appreciate prompt review of the enclosed information demonstrating medical necessity and coverage of VABYSMO™ (faricimab-svoa).

### Patient's Clinical History

[Patient's first and last name] is [a/an] [age]-year-old [male/female/transgender/etc.] who was diagnosed on [date] with [neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (nAMD) and diabetic macular edema (DME)].

- [Include diagnosis and dates]
- [ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes]
- [Any past treatments]
- [Any test results that indicate failure of past treatment(s)]
- [Extenuating circumstances that would preclude alternatives to VABYSMO]
- [Social and family information]

[REMINDER: If a payer has a published policy, include here.]

[REMINDER: If state statute exists, include here.]

### **Treatment Plan**

[Include plan of treatment (dosage, length of treatment), FDA approval letter, relevant journal articles, clinical studies and clinical practice guidelines that support the use of VABYSMO. Consider mentioning experts in the field who also support the treatment.]

### **Summary**

In summary, I am requesting [a/an] [appeal/redetermination/reconsideration] of the denial(s) of VABYSMO™ (faricimab-svoa) therapy for my patient, [Patient's first and last name]. My patient was diagnosed with [neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (nAMD) and diabetic macular edema (DME)]. I am requesting that you reconsider coverage based on the information above. I am readily available at my office phone [Physician phone number] or via email at [Physician email] to address any questions or concerns you might have regarding this appeal. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Physician's name, credentials and signature]

### **Enclosures**

List enclosures, which may include:

- VABYSMO prescribing information
- Clinical notes/medical records
- Diagnostic test results
- Relevant peer-reviewed articles
- FDA approval letter for VABYSMO
- Scans/imaging showing progressive disease
- Pathology reports, if relevant

## HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use VABYSMO safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for VABYSMO.

VABYSMO™ (faricimab-svoa) injection, for intravitreal use

Initial U.S. Approval: 2022

### INDICATIONS AND USAGE

VABYSMO is a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) and angiopoietin-2 (Ang-2) inhibitor indicated for the treatment of patients with:

- Neovascular (Wet) Age-Related Macular Degeneration (nAMD) (1.1)
- Diabetic Macular Edema (DME) (1.2)

### DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

For intravitreal injection. (2.1)

- **Neovascular (Wet) Age-Related Macular Degeneration (nAMD)**
  - The recommended dose for VABYSMO is 6 mg (0.05 mL of 120 mg/mL solution) administered by intravitreal injection every 4 weeks (approximately every 28 ± 7 days, monthly) for the first 4 doses, followed by optical coherence tomography and visual acuity evaluations 8 and 12 weeks later to inform whether to give a 6 mg dose via intravitreal injection on one of the following three regimens: 1) Weeks 28 and 44; 2) Weeks 24, 36 and 48; or 3) Weeks 20, 28, 36 and 44. Although additional efficacy was not demonstrated in most patients when VABYSMO was dosed every 4 weeks compared to every 8 weeks, some patients may need every 4 week (monthly) dosing after the first 4 doses. Patients should be assessed regularly. (2.2)
- **Diabetic Macular Edema (DME)**
  - VABYSMO is recommended to be dosed by following one of these two dose regimens: 1) 6 mg (0.05 mL of 120 mg/mL solution) administered by intravitreal injection every 4 weeks (approximately every 28 days ± 7 days, monthly) for at least 4 doses. If after at least 4 doses, resolution of edema based on the central subfield thickness (CST) of the macula as measured by optical coherence tomography is achieved, then the interval of dosing may be modified by extensions of up to 4 week interval increments or reductions of up to 8 week interval

increments based on CST and visual acuity evaluations through week 52; or 2) 6 mg dose of VABYSMO can be administered every 4 weeks for the first 6 doses, followed by 6 mg dose via intravitreal injection at intervals of every 8 weeks (2 months) over the next 28 weeks. Although additional efficacy was not demonstrated in most patients when VABYSMO was dosed every 4 weeks compared to every 8 weeks, some patients may need every 4 week (monthly) dosing after the first 4 doses. Patients should be assessed regularly. (2.3)

### DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

Injection: 120 mg/mL solution in a single-dose vial (3)

### CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Ocular or periocular infection (4.1)
- Active intraocular inflammation (4.2)
- Hypersensitivity (4.3)

### WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

- Endophthalmitis and retinal detachments may occur following intravitreal injections. Patients should be instructed to report any symptoms suggestive of endophthalmitis or retinal detachment without delay, to permit prompt and appropriate management. (5.1)
- Increases in intraocular pressure have been seen within 60 minutes of an intravitreal injection. (5.2)
- There is a potential risk of arterial thromboembolic events (ATEs) associated with VEGF inhibition. (5.3)

### ADVERSE REACTIONS

The most common adverse reaction (≥ 5%) reported in patients receiving VABYSMO was conjunctival hemorrhage (7%). (6.1)

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Genentech at 1-888-835-2555 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch).

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION.

Revised: 1/2022

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\* Sections or subsections omitted from the full prescribing information are not listed.

## FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

### 1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

VABYSMO is a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) and angiopoietin 2 (Ang-2) inhibitor indicated for the treatment of patients with:

#### 1.1 Neovascular (wet) Age-Related Macular Degeneration (nAMD)

#### 1.2 Diabetic Macular Edema (DME)

### 2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

#### 2.1 General Dosing Information

For intravitreal injection. VABYSMO must be administered by a qualified physician. Each vial should only be used for the treatment of a single eye.

#### 2.2 Neovascular (wet) Age-Related Macular Degeneration (nAMD)

The recommended dose for VABYSMO is 6 mg (0.05 mL of 120 mg/mL solution) administered by intravitreal injection every 4 weeks (approximately every  $28 \pm 7$  days, monthly) for the first 4 doses, followed by optical coherence tomography and visual acuity evaluations 8 and 12 weeks later to inform whether to give a 6 mg dose via intravitreal injection on one of the following three regimens: 1) Weeks 28 and 44; 2) Weeks 24, 36 and 48; or 3) Weeks 20, 28, 36 and 44. Although additional efficacy was not demonstrated in most patients when VABYSMO was dosed every 4 weeks compared to every 8 weeks, some patients may need every 4 week (monthly) dosing after the first 4 doses. Patients should be assessed regularly.

#### 2.3 Diabetic Macular Edema (DME)

VABYSMO is recommended to be dosed by following one of these two dose regimens: 1) 6 mg (0.05 mL of 120 mg/mL solution) administered by intravitreal injection every 4 weeks (approximately every 28 days  $\pm$  7 days, monthly) for at least 4 doses. If after at least 4 doses, resolution of edema based on the central subfield thickness (CST) of the macula as measured by optical coherence tomography is achieved, then the interval of dosing may be modified by extensions of up to 4 week interval increments or reductions of up to 8 week interval increments based on CST and visual acuity evaluations through week 52; or 2) 6 mg dose of VABYSMO can be administered every 4 weeks for the first 6 doses, followed by 6 mg dose via intravitreal injection at intervals of every 8 weeks (2 months) over the next 28 weeks. Although additional efficacy was not demonstrated in most patients when VABYSMO was dosed every 4 weeks compared to every 8 weeks, some patients may need every 4 week (monthly) dosing after the first 4 doses. Patients should be assessed regularly.

#### 2.4 Preparation for Administration

##### 1. Before you start:

- 
- Read all the instructions carefully before using VABYSMO.
  - The VABYSMO kit includes a glass vial and transfer filter needle. The glass vial is for a single dose only. The filter needle is for single use only.
  - VABYSMO should be stored refrigerated at temperatures between 2°C to 8°C (36°F to 46°F). **Do not freeze. Do not shake.**

- Allow VABYSMO to reach room temperature, 20°C to 25°C (68°F to 77°F) before proceeding with the administration. The VABYSMO vial may be kept at room temperature for up to 24 hours. Keep the vial in the original carton to protect from light.
- VABYSMO should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration. VABYSMO is a clear to opalescent and colorless to brownish-yellow liquid solution.  
**Do not** use if particulates, cloudiness, or discoloration are visible.  
**Do not** use if the packaging, vial and/or transfer filter needle are expired, damaged, or have been tampered with (see **Figure A**).
- Use aseptic technique to carry out the preparation of the intravitreal injection.

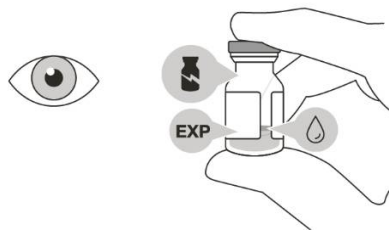


Figure A

2. Gather the following supplies:
  - One VABYSMO vial (included)
  - One sterile 5-micron blunt transfer filter needle 18-gauge x 1½ inch (included)
  - One sterile 1 mL Luer lock syringe with a 0.05 mL dose mark (**not included**)
  - One sterile injection needle 30-gauge x ½ inch (**not included**)  
**Note** that a 30-gauge injection needle is recommended to avoid increased injection forces that could be experienced with smaller diameter needles.
  - Alcohol swab (**not included**).

3. To ensure all liquid settles at the bottom of the vial, place the vial upright on a flat surface (for about 1 minute) after removal from packaging (see **Figure B**). Gently tap the vial with your finger (see **Figure C**), as liquid may stick to the top of the vial.

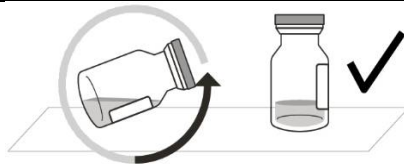


Figure B



Figure C

4. Remove the flip-off cap from the vial (see **Figure D**) and wipe the vial septum with an alcohol swab (see **Figure E**).



Figure D



Figure E

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5. Aseptically and firmly attach the included 18-gauge x 1½ inch transfer filter needle onto a 1 mL Luer lock syringe (see **Figure F**).
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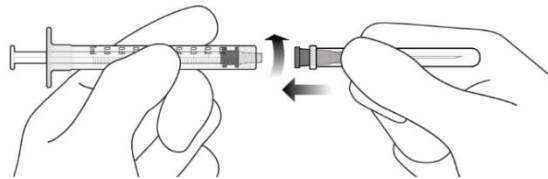


Figure F

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6. Using aseptic technique, push the transfer filter needle into the center of the vial septum (see **Figure G**), push it all the way in, then tilt the vial slightly so that the needle touches the bottom edge of the vial (see **Figure H**).
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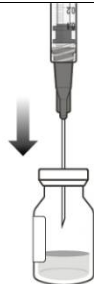


Figure G

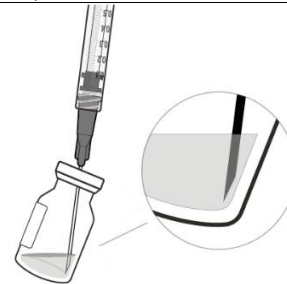


Figure H

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7. Hold the vial slightly inclined and **slowly** withdraw all the liquid from the vial (see **Figure I**). Keep the bevel of the transfer filter needle submerged in the liquid, to avoid introduction of air.
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Figure I

- 
8. Ensure that the plunger rod is drawn sufficiently back when emptying the vial, in order to completely empty the transfer filter needle (see **Figure I**).
- 
9. Disconnect the transfer filter needle from the syringe and dispose of it in accordance with local regulations.
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**Do not use the transfer filter needle for the intravitreal injection.**

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10. Aseptically and firmly attach a 30-gauge x ½ inch injection needle onto the Luer lock syringe (see **Figure J**).
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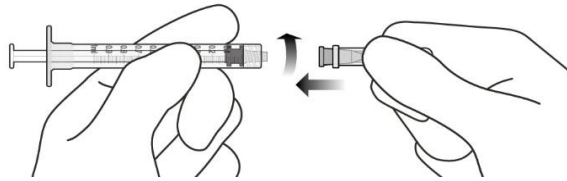


Figure J

- 
11. Carefully remove the plastic needle shield from the needle by pulling it straight off.
  12. To check for air bubbles, hold the syringe with the needle pointing up. If there are any air bubbles, gently tap the syringe with your finger until the bubbles rise to the top (see **Figure K**).
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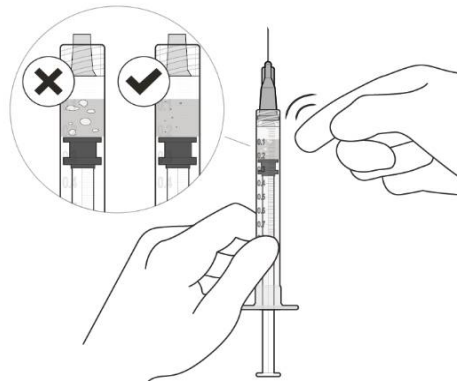


Figure K

- 
13. Carefully expel the air from the syringe and needle, and **slowly** depress the plunger to align the rubber stopper tip to the 0.05 mL dose mark. The syringe is ready for the injection (see **Figure L**). Ensure that the injection is given **immediately** after preparation of the dose.
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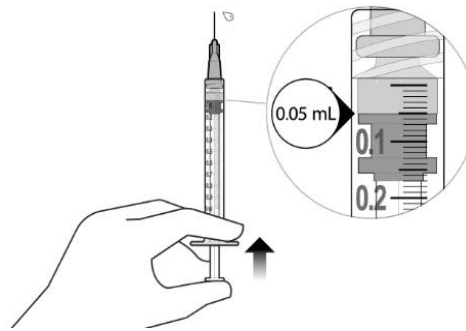


Figure L

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## 2.5 Injection Procedure

The intravitreal injection procedure must be carried out under aseptic conditions, which includes the use of surgical hand disinfection, sterile gloves, a sterile drape and a sterile eyelid speculum (or equivalent), and the availability of sterile paracentesis equipment (if required). Adequate anesthesia and a broad-spectrum microbicide should be administered prior to the injection. Inject slowly until the rubber stopper reaches the end of the syringe to deliver the volume of 0.05 mL. Confirm delivery of the full dose by checking that the rubber stopper has reached the end of the syringe barrel.

Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local regulations.

Immediately following the intravitreal injection, patients should be monitored for elevation in intraocular pressure. Appropriate monitoring may consist of a check for perfusion of the optic nerve head or tonometry. If required, a sterile paracentesis needle should be available. Following intravitreal injection, patients should be instructed to report any symptoms suggestive of endophthalmitis or retinal detachment (e.g., vision loss, eye pain, redness of the eye, photophobia, blurring of vision) without delay [*see Patient Counseling Information (17)*]. Each syringe should only be used for the treatment of a single eye. If the contralateral eye requires treatment, a new syringe should be used and the sterile field, syringe, gloves, drapes, eyelid speculum, filter, and injection needles should be changed before VABYSMO is administered to the other eye.

### **3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS**

Injection: 120 mg/mL clear to opalescent, colorless to brownish-yellow solution in a single-dose vial.

### **4 CONTRAINDICATIONS**

#### **4.1 Ocular or Periocular Infections**

VABYSMO is contraindicated in patients with ocular or periocular infections.

#### **4.2 Active Intraocular Inflammation**

VABYSMO is contraindicated in patients with active intraocular inflammation.

#### **4.3 Hypersensitivity**

VABYSMO is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to faricimab or any of the excipients in VABYSMO. Hypersensitivity reactions may manifest as rash, pruritus, urticaria, erythema, or severe intraocular inflammation.

### **5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

#### **5.1 Endophthalmitis and Retinal Detachments**

Intravitreal injections have been associated with endophthalmitis and retinal detachments [*see Adverse Reactions (6.1)*]. Proper aseptic injection techniques must always be used when administering VABYSMO. Patients should be instructed to report any symptoms suggestive of endophthalmitis or retinal detachment without delay, to permit prompt and appropriate management [*see Dosage and Administration (2.6) and Patient Counseling Information (17)*].

#### **5.2 Increase in Intraocular Pressure**

Transient increases in intraocular pressure (IOP) have been seen within 60 minutes of intravitreal injection, including with VABYSMO [*see Adverse Reactions (6.1)*]. IOP and the perfusion of the optic nerve head should be monitored and managed appropriately [*see Dosage and Administration (2.6)*].

#### **5.3 Thromboembolic Events**

Although there was a low rate of arterial thromboembolic events (ATEs) observed in the VABYSMO clinical trials, there is a potential risk of ATEs following intravitreal use of VEGF inhibitors. ATEs are defined as nonfatal stroke, nonfatal myocardial infarction, or vascular death (including deaths of unknown cause).

The incidence of reported ATEs in the nAMD studies during the first year was 1% (7 out of 664) in patients treated with VABYSMO compared with 1% (6 out of 662) in patients treated with aflibercept [*see Clinical Studies (14.1)*].



The incidence of reported ATEs in the DME studies during the first year was 2% (25 out of 1,262) in patients treated with VABYSMO compared with 2% (14 out of 625) in patients treated with aflibercept [see *Clinical Studies (14.2)*].

## 6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

The following potentially serious adverse reactions are described elsewhere in the labeling:

- Hypersensitivity [see *Contraindications (4)*]
- Endophthalmitis and retinal detachments [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*]
- Increase in intraocular pressure [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.2)*]
- Thromboembolic events [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.3)*]

### 6.1 Clinical Trials Experience

Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in other clinical trials of the same or another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in practice.

The data described below reflect exposure to VABYSMO in 1,926 patients, which constituted the safety population in four Phase 3 studies [see *Clinical Studies (14.1, 14.2)*].

**Table 1: Common Adverse Reactions (≥ 1%)**

Adverse Reactions	VABYSMO		Active Control (aflibercept)	
	AMD N=664	DME N=1262	AMD N=622	DME N=625
Conjunctival hemorrhage	7%	7%	8%	6%
Vitreous floaters	3%	3%	2%	2%
Retinal pigment epithelial tear <sup>a</sup>	3%		1%	
Intraocular pressure increased	3%	3%	2%	2%
Eye pain	3%	2%	3%	3%
Intraocular inflammation <sup>b</sup>	2%	1%	1%	1%
Eye irritation	1%	1%	< 1%	1%
Ocular discomfort	1%	1%	< 1%	< 1%
Vitreous hemorrhage	< 1%	1%	1%	< 1%
<sup>a</sup> AMD only				
<sup>b</sup> Including iridocyclitis, iritis, uveitis, vitritis				

Less common adverse reactions reported in < 1% of the patients treated with VABYSMO were corneal abrasion, eye pruritus, lacrimation increased, ocular hyperemia, blurred vision, eye irritation, sensation of foreign body, endophthalmitis, visual acuity reduced transiently, retinal tear and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment.

### 6.2 Immunogenicity

The immunogenicity of VABYSMO was evaluated in plasma samples. The immunogenicity data reflect the percentage of patients whose test results were considered positive for antibodies to VABYSMO in immunoassays. The detection of an immune response is highly dependent on the sensitivity and specificity of the assays used, sample handling, timing of sample collection, concomitant medications, and underlying disease. For these reasons, comparison of the incidence of antibodies to VABYSMO with the incidence of antibodies to other products may be misleading.

There is a potential for an immune response in patients treated with VABYSMO. In the nAMD and DME studies, the pre-treatment incidence of anti-faricimab antibodies was approximately

1.8% and 0.8%, respectively. After initiation of dosing, anti-faricimab antibodies were detected in approximately 10.4% and 8.4% of patients with nAMD and DME respectively, treated with VABYSMO across studies and across treatment groups. As with all therapeutic proteins, there is a potential for immunogenicity with VABYSMO.

## **8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS**

### **8.1 Pregnancy**

#### Risk Summary

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies of VABYSMO administration in pregnant women.

Administration of VABYSMO to pregnant monkeys throughout the period of organogenesis resulted in an increased incidence of abortions at intravenous (IV) doses 158 times the human exposure (based on  $C_{max}$ ) of the maximum recommended human dose [see *Animal Data*]. Based on the mechanism of action of VEGF and Ang-2 inhibitors, there is a potential risk to female reproductive capacity, and to embryo-fetal development. VABYSMO should not be used during pregnancy unless the potential benefit to the patient outweighs the potential risk to the fetus.

All pregnancies have a background risk of birth defect, loss, and other adverse outcomes. The background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage for the indicated population is unknown. In the U.S. general population, the estimated background risk of major birth defects is 2%-4% and of miscarriage is 15%-20% of clinically recognized pregnancies.

#### Data

##### *Animal Data*

An embryo fetal developmental toxicity study was performed on pregnant cynomolgus monkeys. Pregnant animals received 5 weekly IV injections of VABYSMO starting on day 20 of gestation at 1 or 3 mg/kg. A non-dose dependent increase in pregnancy loss (abortions) was observed at both doses evaluated. Serum exposure ( $C_{max}$ ) in pregnant monkeys at the low dose of 1 mg/kg was 158 times the human exposure at the maximum recommended intravitreal dose of 6 mg once every 4 weeks. A no observed adverse effect level (NOAEL) was not identified in this study.

### **8.2 Lactation**

#### Risk Summary

There is no information regarding the presence of faricimab in human milk, the effects of the drug on the breastfed infant, or the effects of the drug on milk production. Many drugs are transferred in human milk with the potential for absorption and adverse reactions in the breastfed child.

The developmental and health benefits of breastfeeding should be considered along with the mother's clinical need for VABYSMO and any potential adverse effects on the breastfed child from VABYSMO.

### **8.3 Females and Males of Reproductive Potential**

#### Contraception

Females of reproductive potential are advised to use effective contraception prior to the initial dose, during treatment and for at least 3 months following the last dose of VABYSMO.

#### Infertility

No studies on the effects of faricimab on human fertility have been conducted and it is not known whether faricimab can affect reproduction capacity. Based on the mechanism of action, treatment with VABYSMO may pose a risk to reproductive capacity.

### **8.4 Pediatric Use**

The safety and efficacy of VABYSMO in pediatric patients have not been established.

### **8.5 Geriatric Use**

In the four clinical studies, approximately 60% (1,149/1,929) of patients randomized to treatment with VABYSMO were  $\geq 65$  years of age. No significant differences in efficacy or safety of faricimab were seen with increasing age in these studies. No dose adjustment is required in patients 65 years and above.

## **11 DESCRIPTION**

Faricimab-svoa is a humanized bispecific immunoglobulin G1 (IgG1) antibody that binds both vascular endothelial growth factor A (VEGF-A) and angiopoietin-2 (Ang-2). The fragment crystallizable (Fc) region of faricimab was engineered by selected point mutations to abolish binding interactions with Fc $\gamma$  and FcRn receptors. Faricimab-svoa has a total molecular weight of approximately 149 kDa and is produced by recombinant DNA technology using mammalian Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) cell culture.

VABYSMO (faricimab-svoa) injection is a sterile, clear to opalescent, colorless to brownish-yellow solution in a single-dose glass vial for intravitreal administration. Each single-dose vial is designed to deliver 0.05 mL (50 microliters) of solution containing 6 mg faricimab-svoa, L-histidine (155 mcg), L-methionine (52.2 mcg), polysorbate 20 (20 mcg), sodium chloride (73.1 mcg), D-sucrose (2.74 mg) and Water for Injection, adjusted to pH 5.5 with acetic acid. The product does not contain an anti-microbial preservative.

## **12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**

### **12.1 Mechanism of Action**

Faricimab is a humanized bispecific antibody that acts through inhibition of two pathways by binding to VEGF-A and Ang-2. By inhibiting VEGF-A, faricimab suppresses endothelial cell proliferation, neovascularization and vascular permeability. By inhibiting Ang-2, faricimab is thought to promote vascular stability and desensitize blood vessels to the effects of VEGF-A. Ang-2 levels are increased in some patients with nAMD and DME. The contribution of Ang-2 inhibition to the treatment effect and clinical response for nAMD and DME has yet to be established.

### **12.2 Pharmacodynamics**

Increased retinal thickness, assessed by optical coherence tomography (OCT), is associated with nAMD and DME. Leakage of blood and fluid from choroidal neovascularization, assessed by fluorescein angiography, is associated with nAMD. Reductions in central subfield thickness (CST) were observed from baseline through the first year of treatment across all treatment arms in the four Phase 3 studies in nAMD and DME.

## 12.3 Pharmacokinetics

### *Absorption/Distribution*

Maximum faricimab plasma concentrations (C<sub>max</sub>) are estimated to occur approximately 2 days post-dose. Mean (±SD) free faricimab (unbound to VEGF-A and Ang-2) plasma C<sub>max</sub> are estimated to be 0.23 (0.07) mcg/mL and 0.22 (0.07) mcg/mL in nAMD and in DME patients, respectively. After repeated intravitreal administrations, mean plasma free faricimab trough concentrations are predicted to be 0.002-0.003 mcg/mL for Q8W dosing. Although not directly measured in the vitreous, no accumulation of faricimab is expected in the vitreous and no accumulation has been observed in plasma when faricimab has been administered as repeat doses in the vitreous.

### *Metabolism/Elimination*

Metabolism and elimination of faricimab has not been fully characterized. Faricimab is expected to be catabolized in lysosomes to small peptides and amino acids, which may be excreted renally, in a similar manner to the elimination of endogenous IgG. The estimated mean apparent systemic half-life of faricimab is 7.5 days.

### *Specific Populations*

The systemic pharmacokinetics of faricimab were not influenced by gender, race, or mild to severe renal impairment (i.e., estimated normalized creatinine clearance by Cockcroft-Gault equation: 15 to 89 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>). The effect of severe renal impairment or any degree of hepatic impairment on the pharmacokinetics of VABYSMO is unknown. No special dosage modification is required for any of the populations that have been studied (e.g., elderly, gender, race).

## 13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

### 13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

No carcinogenicity or mutagenicity data are available for VABYSMO injection in animals or humans.

Based on the anti-VEGF and Ang-2 mechanisms of action, treatment with VABYSMO may pose a risk to reproductive capacity [*see Females and Males of Reproductive Potential (8.3)*].

## 14 CLINICAL STUDIES

### 14.1 Neovascular (wet) Age-Related Macular Degeneration (nAMD)

The safety and efficacy of VABYSMO were assessed in two randomized, multi-center, double-masked, active comparator-controlled, 2-year studies (TENAYA – NCT03823287 and LUCERNE – NCT03823300) in patients with nAMD.

A total of 1,329 newly diagnosed, treatment-naïve patients were enrolled in these studies, and 664 patients received at least one dose of VABYSMO. Patient ages ranged from 50 to 99 with a mean of 75.9 years. The studies were identically designed two year studies. Patients were randomized in a 1:1 ratio to one of two treatment arms: 1) aflibercept 2 mg administered fixed every 8 weeks (Q8W) after three initial monthly doses; and VABYSMO 6 mg (0.05 mL of 120 mg/mL solution) administered by intravitreal injection every 4 weeks (approximately every 28 ± 7 days, monthly) for the first 4 doses, followed by optical coherence tomography and visual acuity evaluations 8 and 12 weeks later to determine whether to give a 6 mg (0.05 mL of 120 mg/mL solution) dose via intravitreal injection on one of the following three regimens: 1) Weeks 28 and 44; (also referred to as Q16W dosing); 2) Weeks 24, 36 and 48 (also referred to as Q12W dosing); or 3) Weeks 20, 28, 36 and 44 (also referred to as Q8W dosing). However, the utility of these criteria to guide dosing intervals has not been established.

At week 48, after 4 initial monthly doses in the VABYSMO arm, 45% of patients received the Weeks 28 and 44 dosing, 33% of patients received the Weeks 24, 36 and 48 dosing, and the remaining 22% of patients received dosing every 8 weeks. These percentages are reflective of what happened within the conduct of these trials and indicate that some patients did well on two (2) doses spaced 16 weeks apart, or three (3) doses spaced 12 weeks apart, but the percentages may not be generalizable to a broader nAMD population for a variety of reasons. The inclusion/exclusion criteria limited enrollment to a select subset of treatment naive, newly diagnosed nAMD patients and there is no empirical data that a similar magnitude would be observed if eligibility criteria allowed for broader enrollment. The disease activity criteria, which was instrumental in determining dose frequency, is unvalidated. Stricter criteria would have changed how patients were treated resulting in different percentages of subjects in each dose interval cohort. There was not a similarly dosed aflibercept arm for comparison, which makes the percentages difficult to interpret.

Both studies demonstrated non-inferiority to the comparator control (aflibercept) at the primary endpoint, defined as the mean change from baseline in Best Corrected Visual Acuity (BCVA) when averaged over the week 40, 44, and 48 visits and measured by the Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study (ETDRS) letter chart. The primary endpoint analysis was a non-inferiority comparison for the mean change in BCVA between the aflibercept and the VABYSMO arm. The lower bound of the 95% confidence interval for the mean change in BCVA could not be lower than minus 4 letters to declare non-inferiority. In both studies, VABYSMO treated patients had a non-inferior mean change from baseline in BCVA compared to patients treated with aflibercept. Detailed results of both studies are shown in Table 2, Figure 1, and Figure 2 below. The clinical efficacy for the second year of the study has not been reviewed.

**Table 2: Primary Endpoint Results<sup>a</sup> in the TENAYA and LUCERNE Studies**

	TENAYA		LUCERNE	
	VABYSMO N = 334	Aflibercept N = 337	VABYSMO N = 331	Aflibercept N = 327
Mean change in BCVA as measured by ETDRS letter score from baseline (95% CI)	5.8 (4.6, 7.1)	5.1 (3.9, 6.4)	6.6 (5.3, 7.8)	6.6 (5.3, 7.8)
Difference in LS mean (95% CI)	0.7 (-1.1, 2.5)		0.0 (-1.7, 1.8)	

<sup>a</sup> Average of weeks 40, 44 and 48

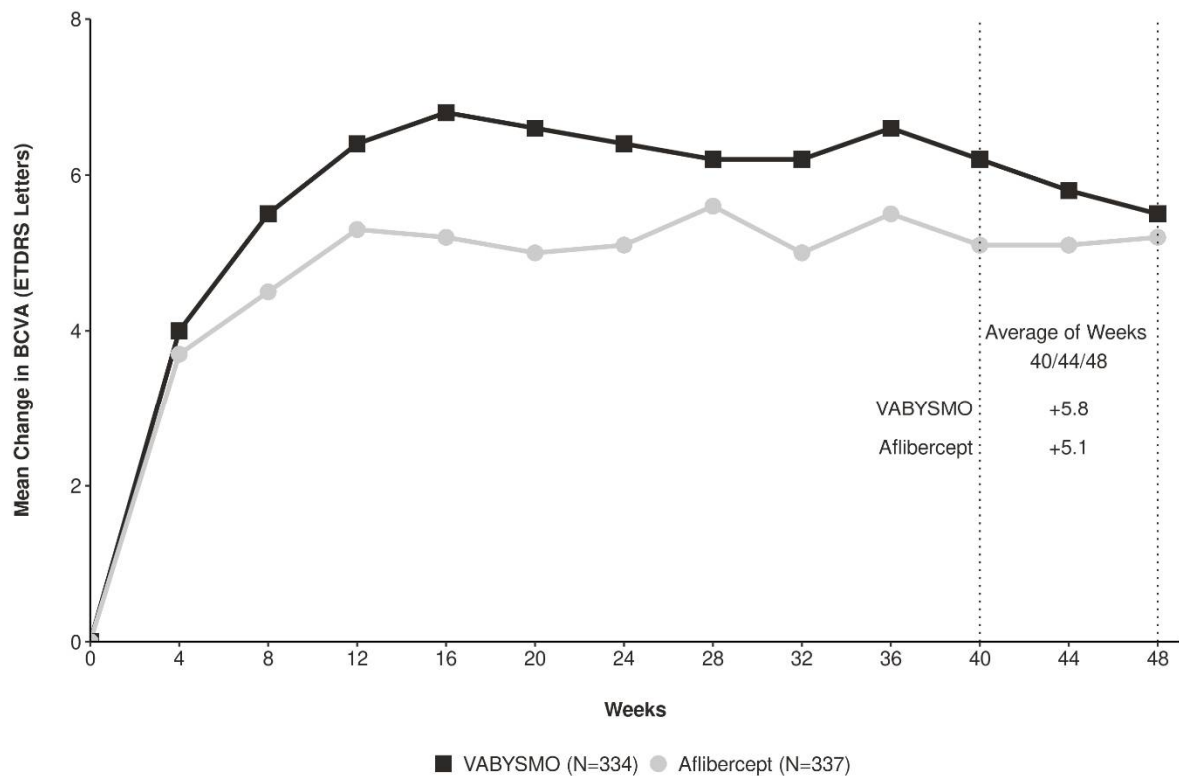
BCVA: Best Corrected Visual Acuity

ETDRS: Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study

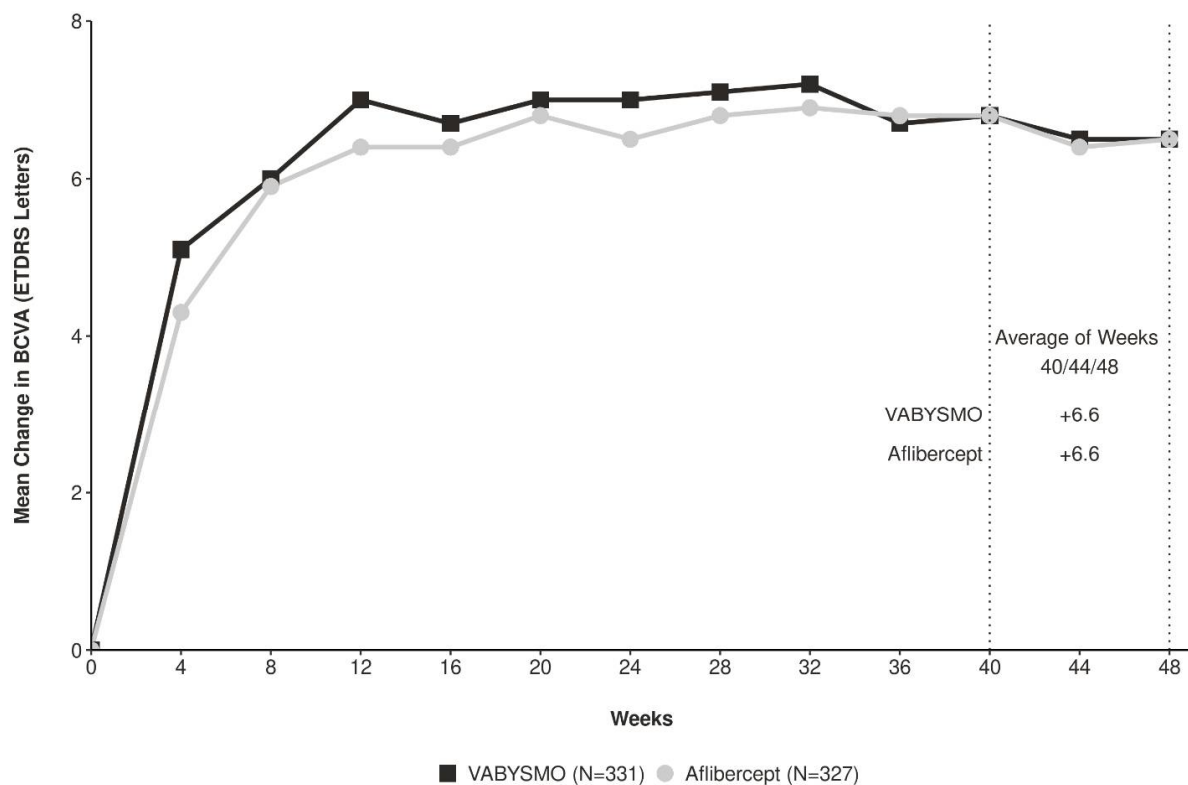
CI: Confidence Interval

LS: Least Square

**Figure 1: Mean Change in Visual Acuity from Baseline to Week 48 in TENAYA**



**Figure 2: Mean Change in Visual Acuity from Baseline to Week 48 in LUCERNE**



Treatment effects in evaluable subgroups (e.g., age, gender, race, baseline visual acuity) in each study were consistent with the results in the overall population.

## 14.2 Diabetic Macular Edema (DME)

The safety and efficacy of VABYSMO were assessed in two randomized, multi-center, double-masked, active comparator-controlled 2-year studies (YOSEMITE – NCT03622580 and RHINE – NCT03622593) in patients with DME.

A total of 1,891 diabetic patients were enrolled in the two studies with a total of 1,262 patients treated with at least one dose of VABYSMO. Patient ages ranged from 24 to 91 with a mean of 62.2 years. The overall population included both anti-VEGF naive patients (78%) and patients who had been previously treated with a VEGF inhibitor prior to study participation (22%).

The studies were identically designed 2 year studies. Patients were randomized in a 1:1:1 ratio to one of three treatment regimens: 1) aflibercept Q8W, patients received fixed aflibercept 2 mg administered every 8 weeks (Q8W) after the first five monthly doses; 2) VABYSMO Q8W, patients received fixed VABYSMO 6 mg administered Q8W after the first six monthly doses; and 3) VABYSMO Variable, patients received VABYSMO 6 mg administered every 4 weeks for at least 4 doses and until the central subfield thickness (CST) of the macula measured by optical coherence tomography was less than approximately 325 microns, then the interval of dosing was modified by up to 4 week interval extensions or reductions in up to 8 week interval increments based on CST and visual acuity disease activity criteria at study drug dosing visits. However, the utility of these disease activity criteria to guide dosing intervals has not been established.

After 4 initial monthly doses, the patients in the VABYSMO Variable arm could have received between the minimum of three and the maximum of eleven total injections through Week 56 inclusive. At Week 56, 32% of patients had completed at least one Q12W interval followed by one full Q16W interval. Seventeen percent (17%) of patients were treated on Q8W and/or Q4W dosing intervals through Week 56 (7% only on Q4W). Sustainability of the Q16W dosing interval cannot be determined based on year one data alone. These percentages are reflective of what happened within the conduct of these trials, but the percentages are not generalizable to a broader DME population for a variety of reasons. The inclusion/exclusion criteria limited enrollment to a select subset of DME patients and there is no empirical data that a similar magnitude would be observed if eligibility criteria allowed for broader enrollment. The disease activity criteria, which was instrumental in determining dose frequency, is unvalidated. Stricter criteria would have changed how patients were treated resulting in different percentages of subjects in each dose interval cohort. There was not a similarly dosed aflibercept arm for comparison which makes the percentages difficult to interpret.

Both studies demonstrated non-inferiority to the comparator control (aflibercept) at the primary endpoint, defined as the primary endpoint, defined as the mean change from baseline in BCVA at year 1 (average of the week 48, 52, and 56 visits), measured by the ETDRS Letter Score. The primary endpoint analysis was a non-inferiority comparison for the mean change in BCVA between the aflibercept and VABYSMO groups. The lower bound of the 97.5% confidence interval for the mean change in BCVA could not be lower than minus 4 letters to declare non-inferiority. In both studies, VABYSMO Q8W and VABYSMO Variable treated patients had a mean change from baseline in BCVA that was non-inferior to the patients treated with aflibercept Q8W. Detailed results of both studies are shown in Table 3, Figure 3, and Figure 4 below. The clinical efficacy for the second year of the study has not been reviewed.

**Table 3: Primary Endpoint Results<sup>a</sup> in the YOSEMITE and RHINE Studies**

	YOSEMITE			RHINE		
	VABYSMO Q8W N = 315	VABYSMO Variable N = 313	Aflibercept Q8W N = 312	VABYSMO Q8W N = 317	VABYSMO Variable N = 319	Aflibercept Q8W N = 315
Mean change in BCVA as measured by ETDRS letter score from baseline (97.5% CI)	10.7 (9.4, 12.0)	11.6 (10.3, 12.9)	10.9 (9.6, 12.2)	11.8 (10.6, 13.0)	10.8 (9.6, 11.9)	10.3 (9.1, 11.4)
Difference in LS mean (97.5% CI)	-0.2 (-2.0, 1.6)	0.7 (-1.1, 2.5)		1.5 (-0.1, 3.2)	0.5 (-1.1, 2.1)	

<sup>a</sup>Average of weeks 48, 52, 56

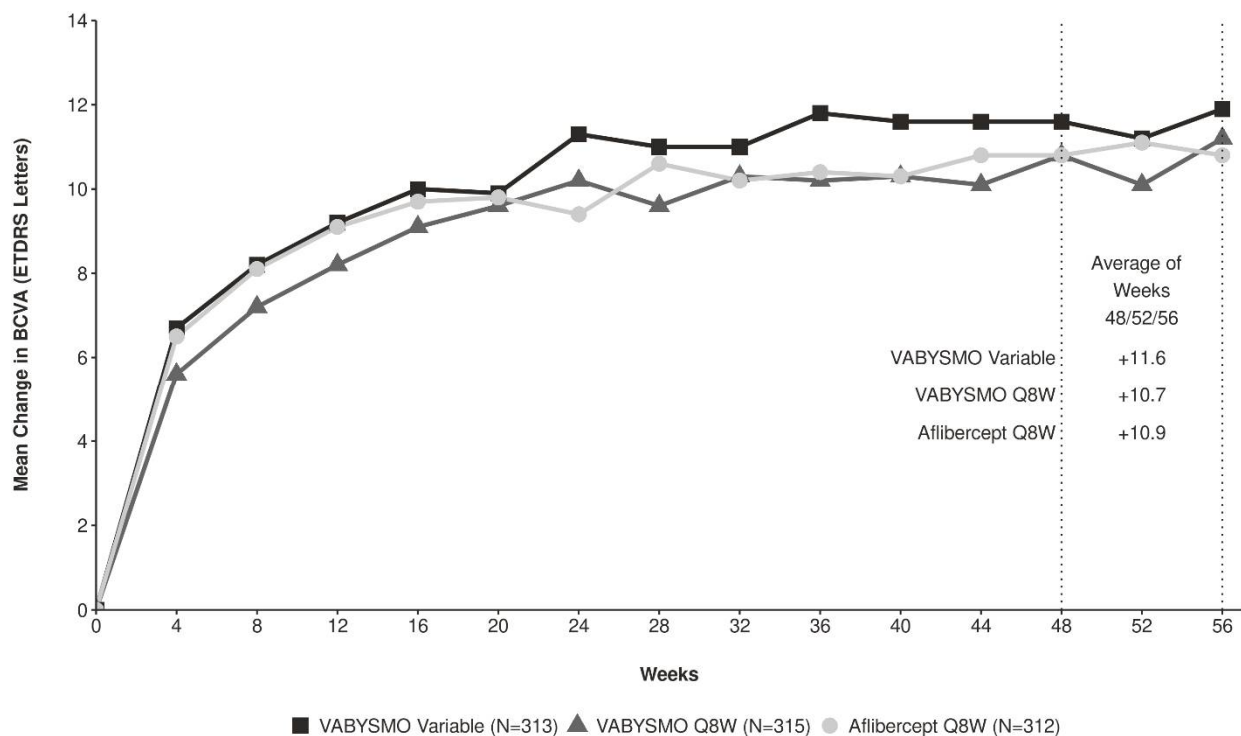
BCVA: Best Corrected Visual Acuity

ETDRS: Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study

CI: Confidence Interval

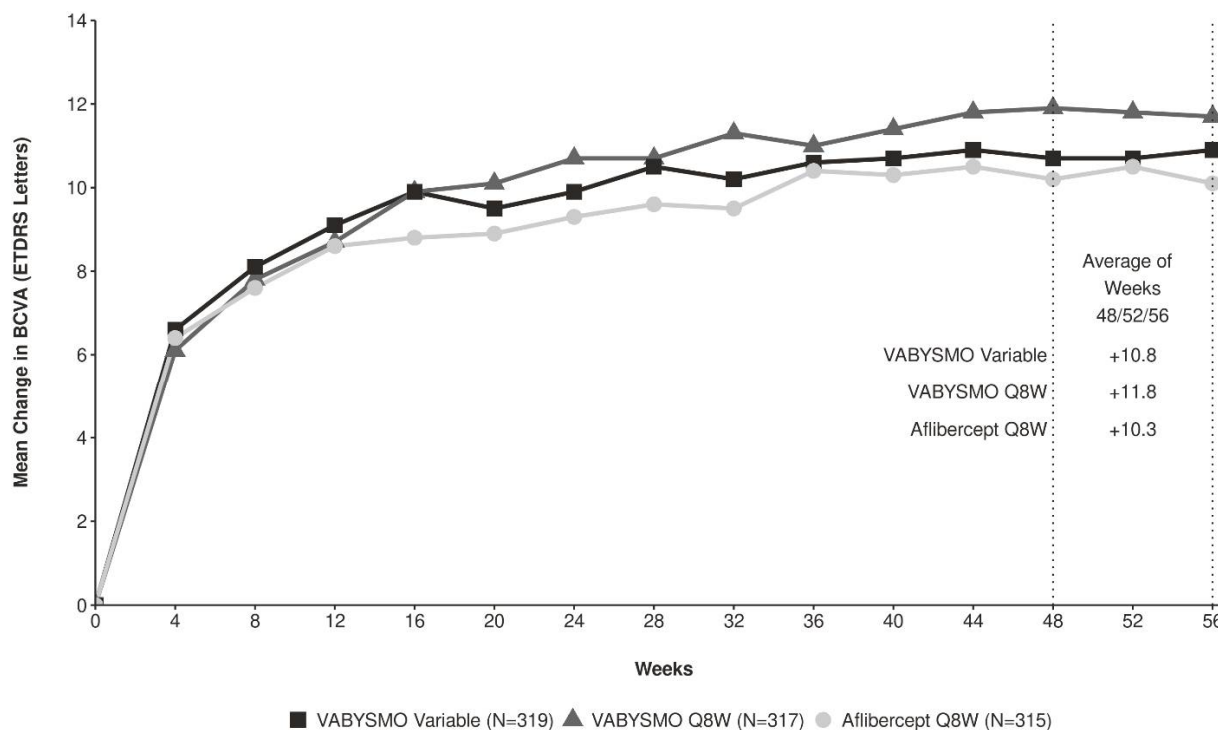
LS: Least Square

**Figure 3: Mean Change in Visual Acuity from Baseline to Year 1 (Week 56) in YOSEMITE**





**Figure 4: Mean Change in Visual Acuity from Baseline to Year 1 (Week 56) in RHINE**



Treatment effects in the subgroup of patients who were anti-VEGF naive prior to study participation were similar to those observed in the overall population. Treatment effects in evaluable subgroups (e.g., by age, gender, race, baseline HbA1c, baseline visual acuity) in each study were generally consistent with the results in the overall population.

## 16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

### 16.1 How Supplied

VABYSMO (faricimab-svoa) injection is supplied as a clear to opalescent, colorless to brownish-yellow 120 mg/mL solution in a single-dose glass vial. Each glass vial contains an overfill amount to allow for administration of a single 0.05 mL dose of solution containing 6 mg of VABYSMO. Each VABYSMO carton (NDC 50242-096-01) contains one glass vial and one sterile 5-micron blunt transfer filter needle (18-gauge x 1½ inch, 1.2 mm x 40 mm).

### 16.2 Storage and Handling

Store VABYSMO in the refrigerator between 2°C to 8°C (36°F to 46°F). Do not freeze. Do not shake. Keep the vial in the original carton to protect from light.

Prior to use, the unopened glass vial of VABYSMO may be kept at room temperature, 20°C to 25°C (68°F to 77°F), for up to 24 hours. Ensure that the injection is given immediately after preparation of the dose.

## 17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

Advise patients that in the days following VABYSMO administration, patients are at risk of developing endophthalmitis. If the eye becomes red, sensitive to light, painful, or develops a change in vision, advise the patient to seek immediate care from an ophthalmologist [*see Warnings and Precautions (5)*].

Patients may experience temporary visual disturbances after an intravitreal injection with VABYSMO and the associated eye examinations [*see Adverse Reactions (6)*]. Advise patients not to drive or use machinery until visual function has recovered sufficiently.

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VABYSMO™ [faricimab-svoa]

Manufactured by:

**Genentech, Inc.**

A Member of the Roche Group

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South San Francisco, CA 94080-4990

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