

Appendix 1: Information about GA and emerging treatments to be provided to study participants

The GA treatment information sheet will summarise the following points in lay language:

- GA is the advanced form of dry age-related macular degeneration.
- It is slow to progress and starts outside the centre of vision in most people.
- It involves the centre of the vision within 5-7 years on average, causing difficulties seeing and performing vision-related tasks.
- Currently, there are two promising treatments being studied and likely to become available in clinics within the next 1-2 years.
- These treatments have all been found to be safe. Clinical trials are now being completed to determine how effective these treatments are in slowing down Geographic Atrophy.
- The key point to note is that these treatments will not cure, stop or reverse Geographic Atrophy. Instead, they will slow down the vision loss caused by Geographic Atrophy.
- It is estimated that these treatments can slow down vision loss by up to 20% at 1 year when delivered every month. As a concrete example: without treatment, a person could be five years away from having to stop driving because of Geographic Atrophy. However, if they were having the treatment, then they could potentially continue to drive for twelve months longer.
- For the treatment to keep working, it would involve lifelong, regular visits to the hospital for an injection into the eye. Currently, these visits could be every month or every other month.
- Every other month treatment slows down GA progression a little less than monthly injections.
- The treatments may cause temporary pain and discomfort in some cases, but severe side effects are rare. However, there is an increased risk of developing wet AMD with these treatments; up to 12% at 2 years with monthly treatment, and 7% with every other month treatment, compared to 3% without treatment.
- Injections in the eye can cause anxiety. However, people often feel much less anxious after having the first injection. Drops are used before these injections, in order to numb the eye and minimise any pain or discomfort.