PERSONAL EFFECTS

"This procedure saved my [partner's] eyesight. It is crucial to support it."
–V.B.; Sydney, Australia

"This really upsets me, as the minimally invasive procedures can be [a] better option for some of us. Not all glaucoma eyes are the same. They just don't care about us."
–S.H.; North Carolina

"As one of the millions of people who are on the watch for glaucoma due to strong family medical history, [we] need to have this early intervention option available!"
–N.G.; New York

"My husband has glaucoma and enough medical problems. Eliminating MIGS options may mean more risky invasive surgeries. Please reconsider."
–D.C.; California

"Please help me and all glaucoma patients keep our eyesight! You may be saving money [by] denying [advanced] treatment, but, when we go blind, you will be spending more."
–P.S.; California

"Please, I have two friends now threatened with glaucoma. These are people who are critical parts of our community and who will be crippled without this care. What is the rationale for picking away at our health care like this?"
–N.G.; Idaho

"My friend and many other people need these options available to them."
–C.R.; Ohio

"As the parent of a child with congenital glaucoma, I support all treatments that will help glaucoma patients fight this horrible disease."
–M.C.; Maryland

"I have early-stage glaucoma and want to have minimally invasive options available if someday my condition requires surgery."
–R.C.P.; Ohio

"I am in need of a [MIGS procedure] and would appreciate a reconsideration of this current decision to limit their availability."
–M.K.V.; Iowa

"I have a close friend who has benefitted from the MIGS procedure. Noncoverage would severely impact her treatment options."
–B.H.; Colorado

"Two MIGS surgeries saved my eyesight [with] no complications. Please do not impose unnecessary restrictions on patient access to these vision-saving procedures."
–O.G.; New Jersey

Manufacturing information: iStent (Glaukos); iTrack (Nova Eye Medical)

1. Golden HA. Oppose LCDs and open up access to all MIGS options for glaucoma patients. iPetitions. Accessed December 4, 2023. www.ipetitions.com/petition/oppose-lcds-and-open-up-access-to-all-migs-options

"Please allow MIGS to remain as just one option in the standard of care. Not every glaucoma patient is geriatric—we all deserve a fighting chance against glaucoma, and it might be a 30- or 40-year fight."

—M.H.; South Carolina

"I have severe glaucoma and have had [canaloplasty] using iTrack. It was successful, lowering my IOP such that I have avoided more serious surgery. I need the same option for my other eye in the future."

—J.T.; California

"As a glaucoma patient, this is devastating for many reasons, including limiting treatment options for patients and requiring doctors to do more invasive surgeries for mild to moderate glaucoma."

—S.W.; California

In an online petition opposing the recent local coverage determination for MIGS,[1] comments from patients and their loved ones shed light on the true impact of this decision.

"I write in the role of patient as well as emeritus professor. There is no scientific justification for the restrictions foisted on [patients] by [Medicare Administrative Contractors]. Period."

—H.G.; Michigan

"We young bodies with [glaucoma] are striving to live our best lives with this debilitating disease. Please, please allow us options for [treatment]."

—G.D.; Hawaii

"I ask you to please support glaucoma patients. This is a terrible, life-changing disease. Our lives are often filled with anguish. We need our doctors to have all the surgeries possible available for us to maintain our vision until there can be a breakthrough for a cure. Glaucoma deserves the same innovative support as other chronic diseases."

—J.R.; Texas

"I am a glaucoma patient. I would like to have access to this surgery when I need it. Why does it seem that with all the technology … that we are going [backward]? Please keep this surgery available to Medicare participants and anyone else!"

—B.W.; United States

"As a 62-year-old glaucoma patient, I've so far been able to avoid surgery. With partial vision loss in one eye, I want to have as many safe, effective options as possible. … With most glaucoma patients over 65 and/or members of minority communities, this short-sighted Medicare change limits access to sight-saving health care."

—D.R.; New York

"I am not Medicare age yet, but I can't fathom why MIGS would not be covered. I recently had an iStent placed, and it has controlled [my] pressures. Everyone should be allowed this opportunity."

— S.M.N.; New York