

## Novartis tries to make UK hospitals use \$1000 drug

April 24 2012

---

(AP) -- Drug maker Novartis says it is taking legal action in Britain to make hospitals use an eye drug that costs 700 pounds (\$1,130) per shot instead of a cheaper one that costs 60 pounds (\$97).

According to the U.K.'s health watchdog, Lucentis is the only drug recommended to treat the eye problem, macular degeneration.

However, the much cheaper Avastin, a cancer drug, is widely prescribed for macular degeneration, though it is not officially approved. Last year, four hospitals in southern England decided they would pay for Avastin when it was prescribed by a doctor.

Both drugs are made by Novartis.

In a statement Tuesday, Novartis said it was demanding a judicial review to make the hospitals use [Lucentis](#) rather than [Avastin](#).

Patient groups called for an independent appraisal to determine which drug should be used.

©2012 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: Novartis tries to make UK hospitals use \$1000 drug (2012, April 24) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-04-novartis-uk-hospitals-drug.html>

---

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.