Qutenza® (capsaicin 8% patch)

Last Review Date: July 15, 2019
Number: MG.MM.PH.162

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Definition

Qutenza is a TRPV1 channel agonist indicated for the management of neuropathic pain associated with postherpetic neuralgia (PHN). The capsaicin in Qutenza (capsaicin) 8% patch is a synthetic equivalent of the naturally occurring compound found in chili peppers. Capsaicin is an agonist for the transient receptor potential vanilloid 1 receptor (TRPV1), which is an ion channel-receptor complex expressed on nociceptive nerve fibers in the skin. Topical administration of capsaicin causes an initial enhanced stimulation of the TRPV1-expressing cutaneous nociceptors that may be associated with painful sensations. This is followed by pain relief thought to be mediated by a reduction in TRPV1-expressing nociceptive nerve endings. Over the course of several months, there may be a gradual re-emergence of painful neuropathy thought to be due to TRPV1 nerve fiber reinnervation of the treated area.

Length of Authorization

Coverage will be provided for 3 months and may be renewed.

Dosing Limits

Max Units (per dose and over time) [Medical Benefit]:
- 4 patches (1120 billable units) every 90 days

I. Initial Approval Criteria

Qutenza may be considered medically necessary if the below conditions are met:

Management of neuropathic pain associated with postherpetic neuralgia (PHN)
- Patient is 18 years of age or older; AND
- Patient has postherpetic neuralgia that has persisted for at least 6 months following healing of herpes zoster rash; AND
- Documented baseline Numerical Pain Rating Scale (NPRS); AND
- Patient had an inadequate response (or contraindication) to ALL four of the following:
II. RENEWAL CRITERIA

Authorizations can be renewed based on the following criteria:
- Patient continues to meet criteria identified under INITIAL APPROVAL CRITERIA; AND
- Absence of unacceptable toxicity from the drug. Examples of unacceptable toxicity include the following: severe application site reactions, hypertension; AND
- Patient has experienced an improvement in pain of at least 30% from baseline Numerical Pain Rating Scale (NPRS)

Dosage/Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indication</th>
<th>Dose</th>
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<tr>
<td>Postherpetic neuralgia</td>
<td>– Health care professional administration: apply Qutenza for 60 minutes (up to four patches) to the most painful skin areas and repeat every 3 months or as warranted by the return of pain (no more frequently than every 3 months). Do not use on broken skin.</td>
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Applicable Procedure Codes

| J7336 | Capsaicin 8% patch, per square centimeter: 1 billable unit = 1 cm² |

Applicable NDCs

| 10144-0928-xx | Qutenza 8% kit (1 patch) |
| 10144-0929-xx | Qutenza 8% kit (2 patches) |

Applicable Diagnosis Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICD-10</th>
<th>ICD-10 Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B02.22</td>
<td>Postherpetic trigeminal neuralgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B02.23</td>
<td>Postherpetic polyneuropathy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B02.29</td>
<td>Other postherpetic nervous system involvement</td>
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</tbody>
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References