VENTURA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE PLAN

QUTENZA (capsaicin)

Effective Date: 1/28/14

Date Developed: 1/28/14 by Robert Sterling, MD

Last Approval Date: 1/26/16, 1/24/17, 1/23/18, 1/22/19, 2/18/20, 2/2/21, 8/3/21, 2/1/22, 1/31/23, 2/13/24, 2/18/25

Description: Qutenza is a single-use patch (14cm x 20cm) which contains 8% of a synthetic form of capsaicin (a substance found naturally in chili peppers). Capsaicin is an agonist for the transient receptor potential vanilloid 1 receptor (TRPV1), 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 followed by pain relief mediated by a reduction in TRPV1-expressing nociceptive nerve endings, a process that has been described as nociceptor defunctionalization.

Authorization:

Neuropathic pain: Management of neuropathic pain associated with postherpetic neuralgia and diabetic peripheral neuropathy of the feet in adults.

Muscle/Joint pain: Temporary relief of minor aches and pains of muscles and joints associated with simple backache, muscle strains, sprains, arthritis, bruises, or cramps, burning mouth syndrome.

NOTE: The following are unlabeled uses and not covered (see the VCHCP policy on Coverage of Prescription Medication for Off-Label use): diabetic neuropathy, treatment of pain associated with psoriasis and intractable pruritis.

Dosing:

Apply patch to most painful areas of the diabetic feet for 30 minutes or other neuropathic pain areas for 60 minutes. For muscle/joint pain apply 1 patch to affected area for up to 8 hours. Maximum: 4 patches/day. Do not use for >5 consecutive days. Treatment may be repeated ≥3 months as needed for return of pain (do not apply more frequently than every 3 months). Area should be pretreated with a topical anesthetic prior to patch application.

Dosage Forms, Patch: 8%

PRECAUTIONS: do not expose to eyes or mucous membranes; caution patient that pain may increase following initiation of treatment but will decrease thereafter; application site irritation/sensitivity

DRUG INTERACTIONS: No known significant interactions.

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Revision Date	Content Revised (Yes/No)	Contributors	Review/Revision Notes
1/24/17	No	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual review
1/23/18	No	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual review
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2/13/24	No	Howard Taekman, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual review
2/18/25	Yes	Howard Taekman, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Added authorization criteria under muscle/joint pain: "burning mouth syndrome" References updated