

ALASKA MEDICAID
Prior Authorization Criteria

**Qutenza™
(capsaicin)**

FDA INDICATIONS AND USAGE¹

Qutenza™ is a TRPV1 channel agonist indicated for the treatment of neuropathic pain associated with postherpetic neuralgia (PHN) and neuropathic pain associated with diabetic peripheral neuropathy (DPN) of the feet.

APPROVAL CRITERIA^{1,2,3}

1. Patient is ≥ 18 years of age **AND**;
2. Patient has a diagnosis of neuropathic pain associated with postherpetic neuralgia (PHN) **OR** pain associated with diabetic peripheral neuropathy of the feet (DPN) **AND**;
3. Patient has tried and failed for a minimum of four weeks at a recognized therapeutic dose or has a contraindication to **ALL** of the following:
 - a. Gabapentin or pregabalin
 - b. Any tricyclic antidepressant
 - c. Topical diclofenac
 - d. Lidocaine patch 5% **AND**;
4. Product will only be applied by a health care professional.

DENIAL CRITERIA¹

1. Failure to meet approval criteria

CAUTIONS¹

- Qutenza™ is only to be applied by a licensed health care professional and not appropriate for self-administration.
- Unintended capsaicin exposure can cause severe irritation.
 - Do not use on or near eyes or mucous membranes.
- Transient increases in blood pressure may occur during and immediately following Qutenza™ treatment.
- Substantial burning and pain may result from application of Qutenza™.
- Reductions in sensory function have been reported following administration of Qutenza™.

DURATION OF APPROVAL¹

- Initial Approval: 1 month
- Reauthorization Approval: up to 12 months

QUANTITY LIMIT¹

- Up to 4 patches per application. Dose may be repeated up to once every 90 days

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REFERENCES / FOOTNOTES:

1. Qutenza (capsaicin) [prescribing information]. Morristown, NJ: Averitas Pharma Inc; February 2023
2. Price R, Smith D, Franklin G, et al. Oral and Topical Treatment of Painful Diabetic Polyneuropathy: Practice Guideline Update Summary. *Neurology*. 2022; 98 (1) 31-43.
3. Johnson, Robert and Rice, Andrew. Postherpetic Neuralgia. *N Engl J Med* 2014; 371:1526-1533
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