

# Qutenza Now Available for Treatment of Post-Shingles Pain

**Qutenza**<sup>®</sup>  
(capsaicin) 8% patch

Qutenza<sup>®</sup> (capsaicin) 8% patch—the first and only product containing prescription-strength capsaicin—is now available for pain associated with postherpetic neuralgia (PHN), the nerve pain that can occur after shingles. It is the first prescription-strength topical treatment for PHN to be approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in more than 10 years.

- The active ingredient in Qutenza is a synthetic form of capsaicin, the substance that gives chili peppers their heat sensation.
- Qutenza works by acting on the nerve fibers in the skin and reduces their ability to transmit pain from the skin to the central nervous system.
- Qutenza is non-narcotic, unlikely to cause drowsiness, or interact with other drugs. It can be used alone or with other pain medications.
- The Qutenza patch is cut to fit the size and shape of the painful area and is then applied to the painful area by a doctor or health care professional under the close supervision of a doctor.
- In November 2009, Qutenza was approved by the FDA for the management of neuropathic pain associated with PHN.

## Photo Gallery



## More About Qutenza

A single one-hour Qutenza treatment can provide three months relief from pain associated with postherpetic neuralgia (PHN), the nerve pain that can occur after shingles.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

## Press Materials

[Press Release](#)   [Qutenza Fact Sheet](#)   [Visuals](#)

## Did You Know?

- Each year, one million Americans develop shingles, a painful viral infection caused by a reactivation of the same virus that causes chickenpox.
- The shingles virus can damage nerves, and the pain from damaged nerves may feel like a sharp, burning, tingling, shooting or numb sensation.
- The nerve pain that can occur after shingles is a condition known as postherpetic neuralgia (PHN).
- It is estimated that up to one in five people with shingles will experience prolonged pain due to PHN.

## Contact

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### Indications and Usage:

Qutenza is indicated for the management of neuropathic pain associated with postherpetic neuralgia.

### Important Safety Information:

Qutenza is administered by a physician or a health care professional under the close supervision of a physician. Qutenza may be administered every 3 months or as warranted by the return of pain, but not more frequently than every 3 months.

In clinical trials, the most common adverse reactions were application site redness, pain, itching, and papules. The majority of these reactions were transient and self-limited. Among patients treated with Qutenza, 1% discontinued prematurely due to an adverse event. Serious adverse reactions included application site pain and increased blood pressure. Blood pressure increases during or shortly after Qutenza treatment were on average less than 10 mm Hg, although some patients had greater increases and these changes lasted for approximately 2 hours after patch removal. Increases in blood pressure were unrelated to the pretreatment blood pressure but were related to treatment-related increases in pain.

[Click here for full Qutenza Prescribing Information.](#)

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