



Subject: Transmucosal Immediate Release Fentanyl (Actiq[®], Fentora[®], Abstral[®], Onsolis[®], Subsys[™], Lazanda[®])*

Effective Date: December 9, 2008

Department(s): Utilization Management

Policy: Transmucosal immediate release fentanyl products (Actiq[®], Fentora[®], Abstral[®], Onsolis[®], Subsys[™], Lazanda[®]) are reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc., within the limitations of this policy.

Objective: To assure proper and consistent reimbursement and to prevent inappropriate prescribing and dispensing of specific drugs with significant abuse potential.

Procedure:

- I. Reimbursable use for Actiq[®], Fentora[®], Abstral[®], Onsolis[®], Subsys[™], and Lazanda[®] is limited to:

Intractable breakthrough pain in cancer patients (ICD-9 338.3) tolerant to opioid therapy that includes at least one long-acting narcotic (including but not limited to transdermal fentanyl [Duragesic[®]] or MS-Contin[®])

- II. Actiq[®] and Fentora[®] are also reimbursable for the following two indications:

A. Intractable breakthrough pain not related to cancer, due to degenerative spine disease (“failed back syndrome”) (722.6, 722.8) that has failed to be controlled by other pain-management strategies that include long-acting systemic opioids for at least three months AND at least one of the following:

1. transcutaneous electromagnetic devices (*e.g.*, TENS unit)
OR
2. spinal cord stimulator
OR
3. intrathecal opioid pump

C. Intractable breakthrough pain not related to cancer, due to sickle cell disease (282.6) that has failed to be controlled by other pain-management strategies that include long-acting systemic opioids for at least three months.

Providers who prescribe Actiq[®] and/or Fentora[®] must have face-to-face contact with the individual for whom these drugs are prescribed at least monthly or document in writing why this is not feasible (as, for example, with a bed-bound patient with cancer) AND provide copies of their office records to QualCare, Inc. within seven days of being requested to do so.

References

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*Consistent with Summary Plan Description (SPD). When there is discordance between this policy and the SPD, the provisions of the SPD prevail.