Prior Authorization DRUG Guidelines

**ACTIQ® (fentanyl)**

Effective Date: 10-27-05

Date Developed: 07-02-05 by C. Wilhelmy MD  
Date Revised: 10.04.11 by A. Reeves, MD  
Date Approved by P&T Committee: 10-27-05; 10.25.11

Actiq is a narcotic analgesic which binds with stereospecific receptors at many sites within the CNS, increases pain threshold, alters pain reception, and inhibits ascending pain pathways.

**Pre-Authorization Criteria**

Actiq is used for the treatment of breakthrough cancer pain in patients ≥ 16 years old with malignancies who are already receiving and who are tolerant to opioid therapy for their underlying persistent cancer pain.

VCHCP will authorize its use for patients who have failed treatment with oxycodone, oral morphine, oral dilaudid, fentanyl patches, and liquid morphine.

**DOSING: ADULTS** — Actiq® dosing should be individually titrated to provide adequate analgesia with minimal side effects. It is indicated only for management of breakthrough cancer pain in patients who are tolerant to and currently receiving opioid therapy for persistent cancer pain. An initial starting dose of 200 mcg should be used for the treatment of breakthrough cancer pain. Patients should be monitored closely in order to determine the proper dose. If redosing for the same episode is necessary, the second dose may be started 15 minutes after completion of the first dose. Dosing should be titrated so that the patient's pain can be treated with one single dose. Generally, 1-2 days is required to determine the proper dose of analgesia with limited side effects. Once the dose has been determined, consumption should be limited to 4 units/day or less. Patients needing more than 4 units/day should have the dose of their long-term opioid re-evaluated. If signs of excessive opioid effects occur before a dose is complete, the unit should be removed from the patient's mouth immediately, and subsequent doses decreased.

**WARNINGS / PRECAUTIONS** — Actiq® should be used only for the care of cancer patients and is intended for use by specialists who are knowledgeable in treating cancer pain. For patients who have received transmucosal product within 6-12 hours, it is
recommended that if other narcotics are required, they should be used at starting doses 1/4 to 1/3 those usually recommended. Actiq® preparations contain an amount of medication that can be fatal to children. Keep all units out of the reach of children and discard any open units properly. Patients and caregivers should be counseled on the dangers to children including the risk of exposure to partially-consumed units. Safety and efficacy have not been established in children <16 years of age.

**PATIENT EDUCATION** — Actiq® preparations contain an amount of medication that can be fatal to children. Keep all units out of the reach of children and discard any open units properly. Actiq® Welcome Kits are available which contain educational materials, safe storage and disposal instructions.

**PRODUCT AVAILABILITY**

Actiq (oral transmucosal fentanyl): available as 200 mcg, 400mcg, 600mcg, 800mcg, 1200mcg and 1600 mcg lozenges. 30 lozenges per package.

**REFERENCES**


Select Drug Information from Lexi-Comp Online™
Copyright (1978 to present) Lexi-Comp, Inc.

©2011 UpToDate® - www.uptodate.com

Epocrates 2011 - www.epocrates.com