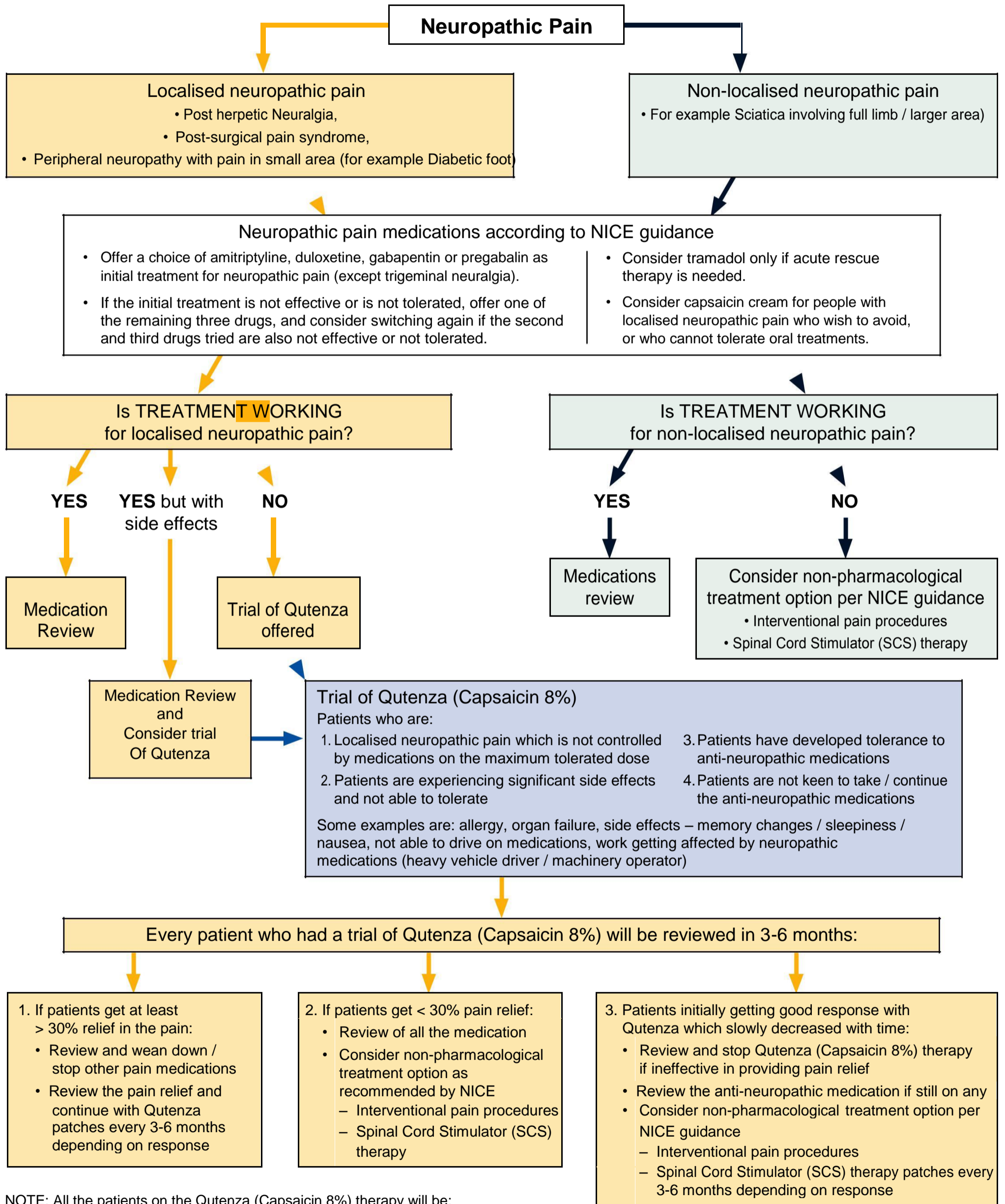




# Pathway for the use of Qutenza (Capsaicin 8%) in the Neuropathic Pain Patient Group



NOTE: All the patients on the Qutenza (Capsaicin 8%) therapy will be:  
Regularly reviewed if they still require to continue on this therapy  
Patients getting at least > 30% pain relief at least for three months  
Neuropathic pain is still localised (and not spread to wider area now)

The therapy will be discontinued in any of the above conditions changes and will look for different treatment options.

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## Pathway for use of Qutenza (Capsaicin 8%) in the Neuropathic pain – accompanying text

### Patient group

Patients with localised neuropathic pain (involving a small area of pain with defined margins) for example:

- Post herpetic Neuralgia,
- Post-surgical pain syndrome,
- Peripheral neuropathy with pain in the extremity (for example Diabetic foot)

### Management of Pain

- These patients will be started/offered neuropathic pain medications according to **NICE guidance** which include the following:
  - Offer a choice of amitriptyline, duloxetine, gabapentin or pregabalin as initial treatment for neuropathic pain (except trigeminal neuralgia).
  - If the initial treatment is not effective or is not tolerated, offer one of the remaining 3 drugs, and consider switching again if the second and third drugs tried are also not effective or not tolerated.
  - Consider tramadol only if acute rescue therapy is needed
  - Consider capsaicin cream for people with localised neuropathic pain who wish to avoid, or who cannot tolerate oral treatments.

### Trial of Qutenza (Capsaicin 8%)

- Patients who are:
  1. Localised neuropathic pain which is not controlled by medications on the maximum tolerated dose
  2. Patients are experiencing significant side effects and not able to tolerate
  3. Patients have developed tolerance to anti-neuropathic medications
  4. Patients are not keen to take/continue the anti-neuropathic medications.Some examples are
  - Allergy
  - Organ failure
  - Side effects – memory changes/sleepiness/nausea
  - Not able to drive on medications
  - Work getting affected by neuropathic medications ( Heavy vehicle driver/ machinery operator)

These patients will be offered a trial of Qutenza (Capsaicin 8%) to see if they get any pain relief.

- Every patient who had a trial of the Qutenza (Capsaicin 8%) will be reviewed in 3-6 months and :
  1. If patients get at least > 30% relief in the pain:
    - **Review and wean down/stop other pain medications.**
    - Review the pain relief and continue with Qutenza patches every 3-6 months depending on response
  2. If Patients get < 30% pain relief:
    - Review of all the medication
    - **Consider Non-pharmacological treatment option as recommended by NICE**
      - **Interventional pain procedures**
      - **Spinal Cord Stimulator (SCS) therapy**
  3. Patients initially getting good response with Qutenza which slowly decreased with time:
    - **Review and stop Qutenza (Capsaicin 8%) therapy if ineffective in providing pain relief**
    - Review the anti-neuropathic medication if still on any
    - Consider Non-pharmacological treatment option as recommended by NICE
      - Interventional pain procedures
      - Spinal Cord Stimulator (SCS) therapy

### Note:

**All the patients on the Qutenza (Capsaicin 8%) therapy will be regularly reviewed if assessed for continuation of treatment.**

- Neuropathic pain is still localised (and not spread to wider area now)
- Patients getting at least > 30% pain relief at least for 3 months

**The therapy will be discontinued in any of the above conditions changes.**