

Good afternoon. My name is Rachael Gardner and I am a Nurse Practitioner in Reno, Nevada focused in Neurology including care and management of migraine patients.

I am here today speaking on behalf of our Nevada Medicaid patients who deserve and need more options available to them for the treatment of migraine headaches. For many years, triptans, or serotonin agonists, have been the primary rescue option for migraineurs. This category of rescue is well-known for untoward side effects including nausea, muscle tightness, fatigue, and burning sensation of the skin. Often, my patients are forced to choose between losing hours to the impact of their migraine or dealing with the side effects of a triptan. Furthermore, the use of opioids and barbiturates, such as Fioricet, are on the rise for migraine rescue which cause a host of problems including rebound headaches and migraines.

For the past few years, I have had the opportunity to prescribe calcitonin gene-related peptides known as CGRP receptor antagonists. The novel CGRP rescue options became available early 2020 and have revolutionized our treatment plan. Time and again I have been told by my patients that when they use a CGRP oral tablet for migraine rescue, they quickly experience freedom from pain and bothersome symptoms of a migraine. This experience speaks to the long $\frac{1}{2}$ life of the medication which greatly reduces the reoccurrence of migraine.

My patients appreciate that they have little to no side effects when taking the anti-CGRP monoclonal antibody unlike their experiences with triptans. Nurtec ODT is easily taken at the onset of a migraine. It is frequently recognized that their migraine symptoms such as visual changes, pain, and nausea begin to fade in as soon as 30 minutes after taking the product. Their quality of life is improved and they no longer need to consider cancelling their day because of their migraine symptoms or untoward side effects from a triptan.

The CGRP receptor antagonist agent Nurtec has less contraindication and thus can be used for patients who are unable to take a triptan or anti-inflammatory product. Nearly every patient can take Nurtec without concern for interaction with other medications or worsening of co-morbid conditions which has been refreshing to say the least. Nurtec ODT is allowing patients who have been forced to just deal with a migraine to actually have an effective tool for migraine rescue perhaps for the first time in their life.

Over the past 9 years working with neurology patients, I have sought to better manage their migraine burden and improve overall function. On behalf of our Nevada Medicaid patients, I request that Nurtec ODT be added as a preferred product. The benefit of allowing access to Nurtec has far reaching impact for the thousands who suffer daily from the impact of migraines.

Thank you for your consideration.