# **Capsaicin 8% Topical System Application Process**

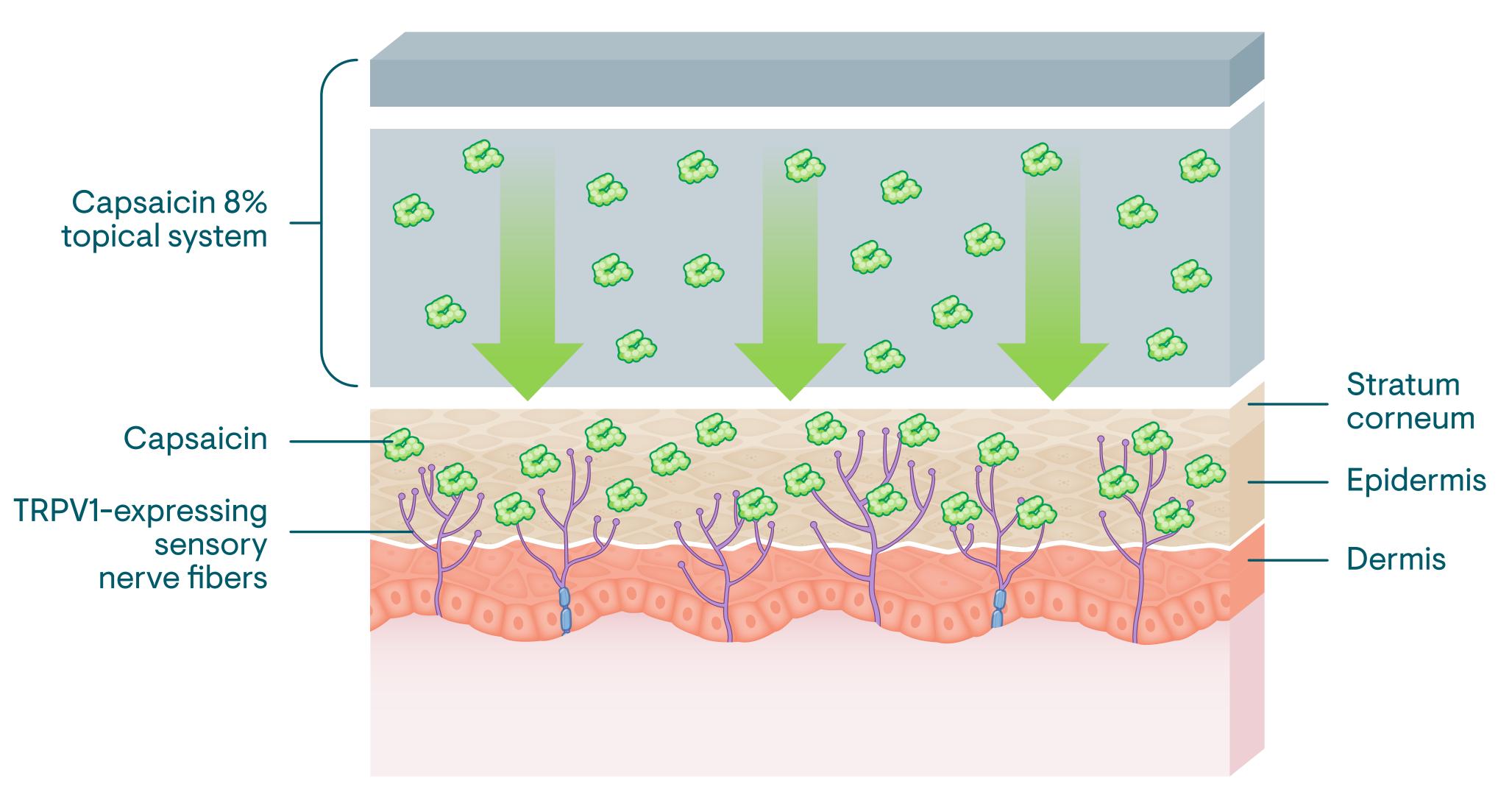
Patients with painful diabetic neuropathy of the feet may be treated by healthcare professionals with a capsaicin 8% topical system designed to target neuropathic pain.<sup>1,a,b</sup>

Capsaicin 8% topical system is designed to act locally on nociceptive nerve fibers in the outermost layers of the skin with minimal systemic absorption of capsaicin.<sup>1</sup>

The matrix technology in the capsaicin 8% topical system enables diffusion of high concentration capsaicin into the skin and formation of a cutaneous reservoir of bioavailable capsaicin.<sup>1</sup>

Due to the lipophilic properties of the capsaicin-containing solvent in the matrix, capsaicin is easily absorbed into the skin layers, but systemic exposure to capsaicin is transient and low.<sup>1</sup>

Capsaicin binds to transient receptor potential vanilloid 1 (TRPV1) channels that are overexpressed on nociceptive fibers of the skin.<sup>1</sup>



The targeted nociceptive fibers are chemically lysed by capsaicin, resulting in reduction of their responsiveness to painful stimuli and providing pain relief for up to 3 months following each application.<sup>1</sup>

Click to learn more about the **mechanism of** action of capsaicin 8% topical system

## **Application process**

Healthcare professionals must administer and handle the capsaicin 8% topical system.<sup>1,2</sup> It cannot be dispensed to patients for self-administration or handling due to high capsaicin concentration.<sup>1,2</sup>

Up to 4 capsaicin 8% topical systems can be applied per treatment; treatment can be repeated every 3 months or as warranted by return of pain, but not more frequently than every 3 months.<sup>1,2</sup>

### **Required items for application<sup>1,2</sup>:**



#### **Before application**<sup>1,2</sup>:



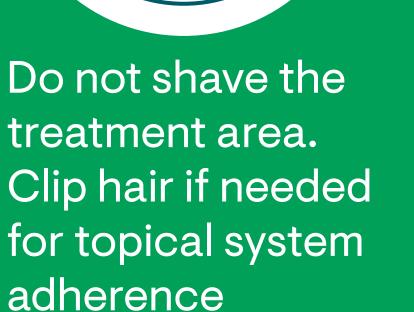
Wash treatment area with mild soap and water; dry thoroughly



Identify treatment area; ensure skin is free from lesions



3





4

**Inspect topical** system pouch for damage



If needed, trim each topical system to match treatment area size and shape

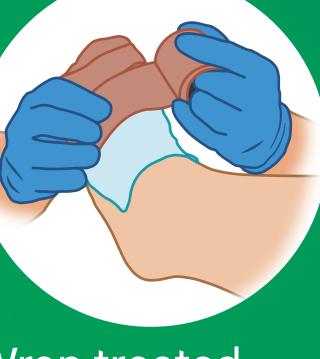


#### **Application**<sup>1,2</sup>:

6

min

Leave in place for 30 min



9

Wrap treated areas with dressing to ensure contact



Wrap system around dorsal, lateral, and/or plantar surfaces of each foot as needed to cover treatment area

Remove protective release liner and apply the adhesive side to treatment area. Smooth each system to ensure skin contact; apply firm pressure

#### Removal<sup>1</sup>:

12

8

Unintended exposure to capsaicin can cause severe irritation of eyes, mucous membranes, respiratory tract, and skin.<sup>1,2</sup> For detailed safety information and instructions for use, please consult the latest **Prescribing Information** 

of capsaicin 8% topical system.



11

Remove dressing. Wearing gloves, slowly roll each topical system inward to avoid capsaicin aerosolization



Dispose of used system and treatment materials in a biohazard bag



13

Apply supplied cleansing gel generously to treatment area; leave on for ≥1 minute



14

Remove cleansing gel and wash area with mild soap and water; dry thoroughly

Learn more about integrating capsaicin 8% topical system into clinic or office procedures

Click here

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<sup>b</sup>In the USA, capsaicin 8% topical system is indicated in adults for the treatment of neuropathic pain associated with postherpetic neuralgia (PHN) and for neuropathic pain associated with diabetic peripheral neuropathy (DPN) of the feet (information updated in March 2025). See full Prescribing Information.

ADR, adverse drug reaction; FDA, United States Food and Drug Administration; TRPV1, transient receptor potential vanilloid 1; USA, United States of America.

- 1. Landrum O et al. *Pain Manag.* 2023;13(10):613–26.
- 2. Averitas Pharma. US Prescribing Information: Capsaicin 8% topical system. Updated: July 2024.