



myMatrixx monitor

CEO Message

by Steven MacDonald, Founder,
Chairman & CEO

It's hard to imagine the year is quickly coming to a close. We have had a great year and recently our team was honored for several achievements that I wanted to mention. First, our IT Team was honored for launching the new app, myMatrixx Mobile, which was named Innovative Project of the Year at the Industry Achievement Awards. Presented by the Tampa Bay Technology Forum, Florida's largest technology association, the program



honors companies for technology innovation and excellence. myMatrixx Mobile was launched in April of this year and provides our clients access to the claims management web portal anytime, anywhere from their mobile device.

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TBTF representative, Lindsay Rios, Perry Panagopoulos, Jim North and Joel Playford

good medicine
for business





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For the second year in a row, myMatrixx has been named a Best Places to Work in Insurance by *Business Insurance*.

The national program identifies and recognizes high-quality workplaces in the commercial insurance industry. Honorees must demonstrate that they meet several criteria in a variety of employment-related metrics, measured against other employers in the industry as well as other companies nationwide. We are very proud to receive this prestigious recognition again this year.



John Taylor, Kelly Noonan, Keha Chin, Suzette Figueroa



Additionally, we were awarded the Gold Award for Best Overall Internet Site at the eHealthcare Leadership Awards presented by *eHealthcare Strategy & Trends*, a leading industry resource.

Awards are given in numerous categories and divided into divisions based on the type of healthcare company. Winners were selected from more than 1,100 entries. Judges for the Best Overall Internet Site category reviewed more than 40 factors when selecting the award winners.



On behalf of myMatrixx, we hope you have a wonderful holiday and a happy and healthy New Year. We look forward to 2014!

MULTIYEAR HONOREE



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in workers' compensation.



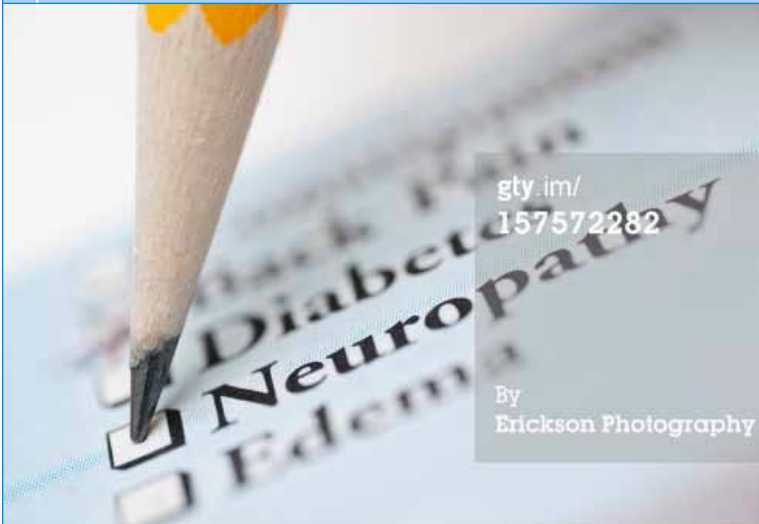
Clinical

CLINICAL CORNER



Is Nucynta ER Effective for Neuropathic Pain?

by Kendra Karagozian, PharmD, Clinical Pharmacist, myMatrixx



Back in August 2012, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Nucynta ER[®] (tapentadol) for the management of neuropathic pain associated with diabetic peripheral neuropathy (nerve damage caused by diabetes). This made Nucynta ER the first and only opioid medication approved for this use.¹ Nucynta ER was originally approved for moderate to severe chronic pain in adults for whom around-the-clock opioid medication was indicated.

Nerve damage is a common complication among diabetic patients and is the leading cause of amputations. Patients with diabetic neuropathy often experience pain or loss of feeling in the toes, feet, legs, hands and arms, and a persistent burning, tingling or prickling sensation. Because of the complex pathophysiology of neuropathy, patients often require treatment with multiple medication.¹ Nerve pain is also common following work related injuries.

Anticonvulsants (e.g. Lyrica, gabapentin) and antidepressants (e.g. Cymbalta, Effexor, amitriptyline) have been the mainstay of treatment for nerve pain.² They are recommended as first-line treatments in clinical guidelines. However, these

drugs are associated with adverse effects and drug interactions which can sometimes be intolerable. Furthermore, successful pain relief is only achieved in 50% of patients with neuropathic pain. Although opioids are highly effective for acute and chronic pain, their use is limited by side effects such as nausea, vomiting, constipation, and sedation, as well as the possibility of addiction or dependence.

Tapentadol (Nucynta, Nucynta ER) is a centrally acting analgesic with established efficacy in acute pain, chronic pain, neuropathic pain, and pain with an inflammatory origin.³ Tapentadol is unique in that it exerts its analgesic effect via two distinct mechanisms, which is purported to contribute to its additive analgesic activity. It activates the mu-opioid receptor and also has effects on norepinephrine similar to some of the antidepressants (e.g. Cymbalta, Effexor). Tapentadol has the same pain-relieving benefits as well as the same risks that come with any opioid, but shows a significant improvement in gastrointestinal tolerability. Therefore, it is recommended as a second line therapy for patients who develop intolerable adverse effects with first line opioids.

Why is this new indication important to Workers' Comp?

Drugs approved for diabetic peripheral neuropathy are widely used for neuropathic pain resulting from injuries. Because Nucynta ER is the first opioid to have both indications its favorability in workers' compensation is likely to continue growing. Expect to see increased costs associated with Nucynta ER.

¹FDA Approves Nucynta for Pain Associated with Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy. Physician's Weekly. Available at <http://www.physiciansweekly.com/fda-nucynta-dpn/>.

²Pergolizzi J, Boger RH, Budd K, et al. Opioids and the management of chronic severe pain in the elderly. Pain Pract. 2008 Jul-Aug; 8(4):287-313.

³Bazhenova F and Nogid A. Role of tapentadol immediate release (Nucynta) in the management of moderate-to-severe pain. PT. 2010 June; 35(6): 330-333, 357.

Regulatory Updates

During the 2013 legislative session, many states considered and adopted legislation to address prescription drug abuse. Some state legislatures also appointed special committees to study this national epidemic. myMatrixx has posted a report listing enacting legislation related to prescription drug monitoring programs, workers' compensation pharmacy benefits and medical cost containment initiatives. The report can be found here:

www.mymatrixx.com/news/2013-regulatory-update/



UPDATES

Indiana

New Hampshire

Rhode Island

Maine

Texas

Prescription Drug Abuse Legislation: Enacted Laws and Studies

Additional updates around the country include the following:

Indiana: House Bill 1465 established the Indiana Scheduled Prescription Electronic Collection and Tracking (INSPECT) Committee. The committee is charged with studying and making recommendations on enhancements to the state's prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP). Recommendations may result in legislation that will be considered during the 2014 legislative session.

Earlier this year the Indiana Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Task Force's Education Committee published the Indiana Healthcare Providers Guide to the Safe, Effective Management of Chronic non-Terminal Pain, First Do No Harm Toolkit and a poster on the Indiana Medical Licensing Board controlled substances prescribing rules, First Do No Harm Poster adopted pursuant to Senate Bill 246.

New Hampshire: New Hampshire Senate Bill 71 established a committee to study the use and misuse of prescription drugs and opiates in workers' compensation cases. The committee will evaluate the effectiveness of laws in other states and considering enhancement of the controlled drug prescription health and safety program, possible establishment of a

closed formulary, promulgating establishment of interagency opioid dosing guidelines and pain treatment guidelines governing utilization.

Rhode Island: House Bill 5982 created a seven member special house commission to study the feasibility of enacting legislation that would establish an Internet system for tracking over-prescribing (I-STOP) and create a prescription monitoring program registry. The commission's report is due no later than April 1, 2014.

Maine: HP 263 requires the Substance Abuse Services Commission to develop a process to increase prescriber participation in the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program. The commission's findings and recommendations, along with any suggested legislation, are to be reported to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 1, 2014.

Texas: Senate Bill 1643 creates an interagency prescription monitoring work group that is charged with submitting prescription drug monitoring recommendations to the legislature no later than December 1 of each even-numbered year.

LENDERS A HAND TO



Habitat for Humanity

A team of myMatrixx volunteers took some time out on a Saturday in October to help build a house for the Tampa, Florida Chapter of Habitat of Humanity. The house our team worked on is part of a community called Providence Pointe in Tampa which includes homes built by and for Habitat homeowners with the help of volunteers.

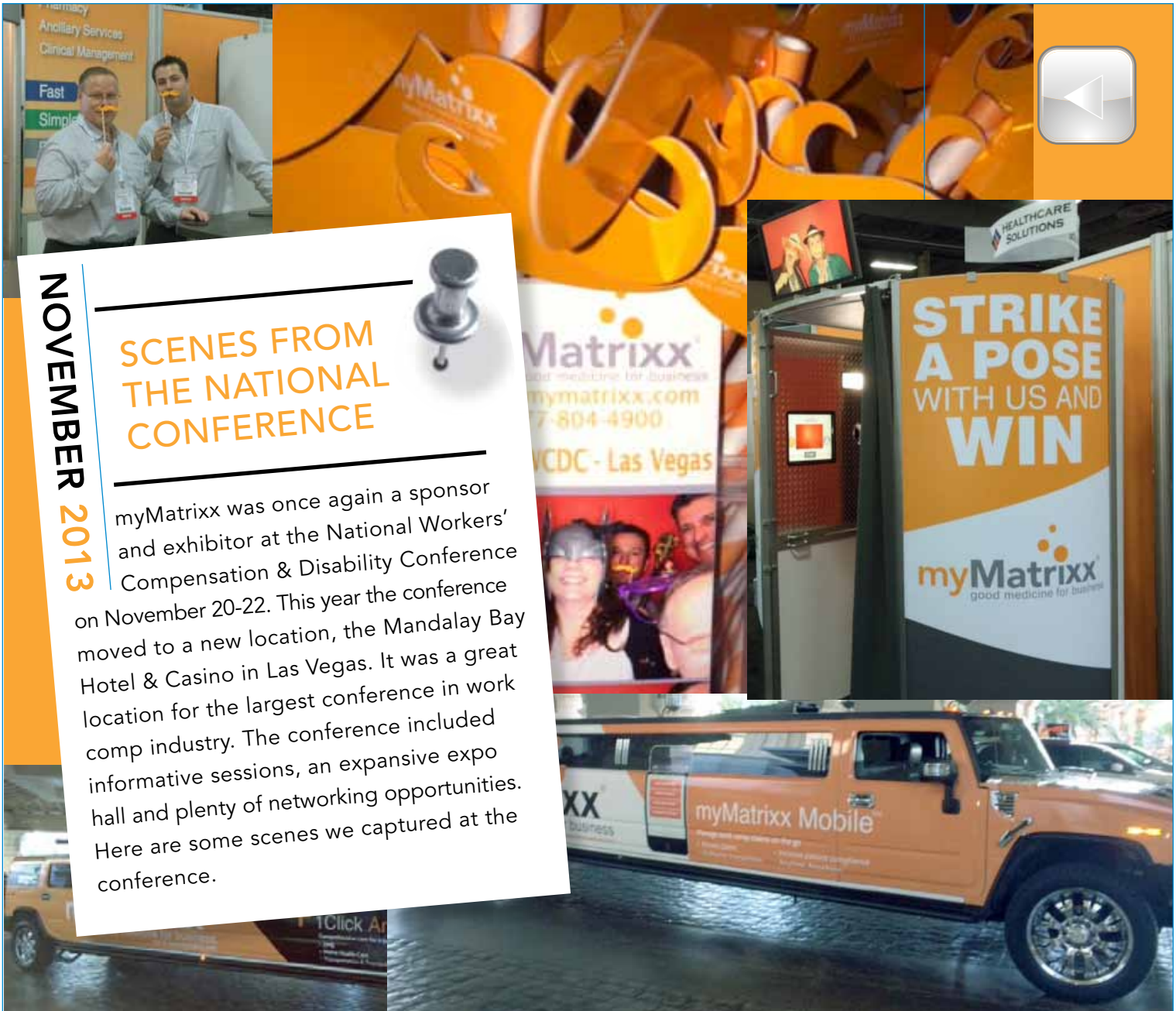
The Tampa chapter is part of Habitat for Humanity International which includes more than 1,500 local affiliates in the United States and more than 80 national organizations around the world. The goal of the organization is to help provide decent, safe and affordable housing for low-income families. They do this by building and repairing houses all over the world using volunteer labor and donations.

The myMatrixx team worked hard on the construction of the home from hanging siding to framing in the roof. We worked side-by-side with other future homeowners and "super" volunteers who literally come out every weekend to work on the homes under construction.

"We are always so appreciative of volunteers like myMatrixx, who bring a team of individuals together to help us build our homes," said Jamie Songy, Resource Development Director for Habitat for Humanity. "We like to say we give families a hand-up, not a handout. Our corporate partners can see this first hand when they work side-by-side with homebuyers who must donate 300 "Sweat Equity" hours," she added. The homeowners must also be able to assist with closing costs and make monthly mortgage payments. Habitat homes are sold to our homeowners at no profit with a no-interest mortgage.

If you're interested in volunteering with a local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity in your area, [find out more here.](#)





NOVEMBER 2013

SCENES FROM THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE



myMatrixx was once again a sponsor and exhibitor at the National Workers' Compensation & Disability Conference on November 20-22. This year the conference moved to a new location, the Mandalay Bay Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. It was a great location for the largest conference in work comp industry. The conference included informative sessions, an expansive expo hall and plenty of networking opportunities. Here are some scenes we captured at the conference.

Upcoming Events

myMatrixx will be attending the following future events.

NYSIA -New York Self Insured Annual Meeting

January 15-17

FASI Winter Meeting

January 30-31

California Division of Workers' Compensation Annual Educational Conference - Los Angeles

February 3-4

11th Annual National Workers' Compensation Insurance ExecuSummit

February 4 - 5

PARMA 2014 Annual Risk Managers Conference

February 9-12

California Division of Workers' Compensation Annual Educational Conference - Oakland

February 10-11

