STATE OF VERMONT
AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES
Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA)

AHS Bulletin No: 14-03E

Secretary of State's ID Number: *To be assigned*

FROM: Mark Larson, Commissioner
Department of Vermont Health Access

DATE: 06/23/14

SUBJECT: Prescription Monitoring

CHANGES ADOPTED EFFECTIVE: 07/01/14

TYPE OF RULE CHANGE

X **Emergency Rule Changes**

RULE REFERENCE(S): 7502

This emergency rule is being implemented as directed by Act 195 of the 2013 -2014 Legislative Session, An Act Relating to Pretrial Services, Risk Assessments, and Criminal Justice Programs.

> Sec. 13. VPMS QUERY; RULEMAKING
> The Secretary of Human Services shall adopt rules requiring:
> (1) All Medicaid participating providers, whether licensed in or outside Vermont, who prescribe buprenorphine or a drug containing buprenorphine to a Vermont Medicaid beneficiary to query the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System the first time they prescribe buprenorphine or a drug containing buprenorphine for the patient and at regular intervals thereafter. Regular intervals shall exceed the requirements for other Schedule III pharmaceuticals, and queries shall be done prior to prescribing a replacement prescription. The rules shall also include dosage thresholds, which may be exceeded only with prior approval from the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Vermont Health Access or designee.
>
> Sec. 18. EFFECTIVE DATES
> (b) This section and Secs. 1 (legislative intent), 3 (risk assessment and needs screening tools), 4 (prosecutor precharge programs and reporting), 10 (Department of Public Safety report), **13 (VPMS query; rulemaking),** 14 (medication-assisted therapy, rulemaking), and 17 (immunity from liability) **shall take effect on passage.**

Specific Changes to Rule Sections

Section	Description of Change
7502.7	New section added to existing Rule 7502. 7502.7 reads: All Medicaid participating providers who prescribe buprenorphine or a drug containing buprenorphine to a Vermont Medicaid beneficiary must query the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System the first time they prescribe buprenorphine or a drug containing buprenorphine for the patient and no fewer than two times annually thereafter.

	Dosage criteria, as approved by the Drug Utilization Review Board and meeting the requirements described in the Preferred Drug List, may only be exceeded with prior approval from the Chief Medical Officer of the DVHA or designee.

*****

To get more information about the Administrative Procedures Act and the Rules applicable to state rule making go to the website of the Department of the Vermont Secretary of State at: https://www.sec.state.vt.us/administrative-rules.aspx or call Louise Corliss at 828-2863. [General information, not specific rule content information]

*****

For information on upcoming hearing before the Legislative Committee on Administrative rules go to the website of the Vermont Legislature at: http://www.leg.state.vt.us or call 828-5760.

7502 Prescribed Drugs (02/25/2012, 11-13)

Coverage is for any drug which is approved under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, or the use of which is supported by one or more citations included or approved for inclusion in any of the compendia described in section 1927(g)(1)(B)(i) of the Social Security Act.

The compendia are:

I. American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information,

II. DRUGDEX Information System, and

III. United States Pharmacopeia-Drug Information (or its successor publications)

Coverage of all drugs is subject to the requirements of the Preferred Drug List (PDL).

Physicians and pharmacists are required to conform to Act l27 (l8-VSA-Chapter 9l), otherwise known as the Generic Drug Bill. In those cases where the Generic Drug Bill permits substitution, only the lowest priced equivalent in stock at the pharmacy shall be considered medically necessary. If, in accordance with Act l27, the patient does not wish to accept substitution, Medicaid will not cover the prescription.

7502.1 Smoking Cessation Products (02/25/2012, 11-13)

Coverage of over-the-counter and prescription smoking cessation products is provided to beneficiaries subject to the requirements of the PDL.

7502.2 Non-Drug Items (02/25/2012, 11-13)

Most non-drug items are not covered. Coverage is provided for Diabetic Supplies, Spacers, and Peak Flow Meters subject to the requirements of the PDL.

Some examples of excluded non-drug items include:

dentifrices and dental adhesives

baby oils

mouthwash

soaps and shampoos

food products and food supplements*

baby formula

sugar substitutes

topical antiseptics

throat lozenges

lotions, rubbing alcohol, and witch hazel

band-aids, gauze, and adhesive tape

ostomy deodorants, oral or external

placebo; all dosage forms

homeopathic medicines

alternative medicine/natural products (e.g. Ginseng, Ginko Biloba, etc.)

*Coverage for liquid nutritional supplements is subject to the requirements of the PDL. Prior authorization is required.

Stimulants and Appetite Depressants (02/25/2012, 11-13)

Stimulants are covered only when used in accordance with the requirements of the Preferred Drug List.

Non-amphetamine-based weight-loss drugs (for example, Alli™, Xenical™) are covered with prior authorization.

7502.4 Vitamins and Minerals (02/25/2012, 11-13)

Select pre-natal vitamins are covered for pregnant and lactating women.

Generic multivitamins are covered.

Single vitamins B and D, and select minerals (e.g. calcium, iron) are covered when prescribed for the treatment of a specific disease; e.g. Injectable vitamin B–12 in the treatment of certain types of anemia.

7502.5 Over-the-Counter Drugs (02/25/2012, 11-13)

The following classes of over-the-counter drugs are covered in generic form only, where the attending physician has prescribed it as part of the medical treatment of a specific disease; for example, analgesics for the relief of arthritis pain, and laxatives for the bedbound:

- analgesics such as acetaminophen, aspirin and other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory products;
- fecal softeners such as those containing docusate;
- laxatives and antidiarrheals such as those containing loperamide;
- antacids;
- antihistamines;
- select cough and cold products; and
- other select products as determined by the DUR Board and included in the current list of categories of covered over-the-counter drugs.

7502.6 Family Planning Items (07/01/2006, 06-01)

Contraceptive drugs, supplies, and devices are covered when provided on a physicians order. Birth control pills may be dispensed in a quantity not to exceed a 92-day supply. Payments made for these items will be deemed to qualify for the increased federal financial participation contained in section 1903 (a)(5) of the Social Security Act.

7502.7 Vermont Prescription Monitoring System (07/01/2014, 14-03E)

All Medicaid participating providers who prescribe buprenorphine or a drug containing buprenorphine to a Vermont Medicaid beneficiary must query the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System the first time they prescribe buprenorphine or a drug containing buprenorphine for the patient and no fewer than two times annually thereafter.

Dosage criteria, as approved by the Drug Utilization Review Board and meeting the requirements described in the Preferred Drug List, may only be exceeded with prior approval from the Chief Medical Officer of the DVHA or designee.