

**Vermont Health Access
Pharmacy Benefit Management Program**

July, August and September 2010

**Quarterly Report to
Health Access Oversight
Committee**

Q1 SFY 2011

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Pharmacy Benefit Management Program Quarterly Report

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The Agency of Human Services, Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA), is pleased to provide the quarterly report to the Health Access Oversight Committee as required by Act 127 approved in 2002 and found in 33 V.S.A. Chapter 19 § 2001. This report covers the activities of the Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM) for the first quarter of State Fiscal Year 2011.

The three requirements are set out in bold italics. The DVHA’s response follows each requirement.

§2001 (c) (1) “The director of the office of Vermont health access shall report quarterly to the health access oversight committee concerning the following aspects of the pharmacy best practices and cost control program:

(1) the efforts undertaken to educate health care providers about the preferred drug list and the program’s utilization review procedures;”

During this quarter, one educational fax blast was sent to pharmacy providers:

- July 9, 2010: DVHA notified pharmacies about four generics that were being moved to preferred status on DVHA’s preferred drug list.

In an attempt to make all documents available to interested parties, the department maintains a web page with information related to the Pharmacy Benefits Management Program at: <http://dvha.vermont.gov/for-providers>.

“(2) the number of prior authorization requests made;”

Clinical Prior Authorization Requests					
	Requests	Approved	Changes	Denied	Fair Hearing Status
					1 Withdrawn 1 Pending
July	1,507	1,165	39	303	1 Dismissed
August	1,766	1,347	49	370	1 Dismissed
September	1,945	1,497	53	395	1 Pending
Total	5,218	4,009	141	1068	5

Quantity Limit Prior Authorization Requests					
	Requests	Approved	Changes	Denied	Fair Hearing Status
July	203	149	21	33	0
August	206	172	9	25	0
September	205	162	11	32	0
Total	614	483	41	90	0

Combined Clinical and Quantity Limit Prior Authorization Requests					
	Requests	Approved	Changes	Denied	Fair Hearing Status
July	1,710	1,314	60	336	1 Withdrawn 1 Pending 1 Dismissed
August	1,972	1,519	58	395	1 Dismissed
September	2,150	1,659	64	427	1 Pending
Total	5,832	4,492	182	1,158	5

Data in the table above show that the DVHA received a total of 5,218 requests for **clinical prior authorizations (PA)** during the first quarter of State Fiscal Year 2011 (July, August and September 2010). This represents a 6.27% increase from the total number of clinical prior authorization received during the previous quarter (4,910), and a 2.62% increase from one year ago, Q1 SFY 2010, when total clinical PA requests were 5,085.

DVHA received a total of 614 requests for **quantity limit prior authorizations** during the first quarter of State Fiscal Year 2011 (July, August and September 2010), virtually no change from the total number of quantity limit prior authorization requests received during the previous quarter (612), and a 43.41% decrease from one year ago, Q1 SFY 2010, when total quantity limit PA requests were 1,085.

Quantity limits are established to promote dose consolidation (that is prescribing of lesser quantities of larger strength dosage forms rather than multiples of lower strength dosage forms which is especially important when all dosage strengths for a particular drug are level priced) and also to promote rational maximum daily doses where increased doses have either not been shown to offer additional clinical benefit or may be harmful.

“(3) the number of utilization review events (other than prior authorization requests).”

DUR Description	July 2010	August 2010	September 2010	Grand Total	% of Total
Drug-Age Precaution	12	8	3	23	0.01%
Drug-Disease Precaution	4,521	4,568	4,411	13,500	4.50%
Drug-Drug Interaction	22,731	17,394	21,909	62,034	20.68%
Ingredient Duplication	10,111	10,314	10,451	30,876	10.29%
Refill Too Soon	3,865	3,890	3,888	11,643	3.88%
Therapeutic Duplication	60,331	60,551	60,984	181,866	60.63%
Total	101,571	96,725	101,646	299,942	100.00%

During the first quarter of SFY 2011, a total of 299,942 utilization events occurred. This was a 3.36% decrease from the previous quarter, in which a total of 310,372 utilization review events occurred. Below is a comparison of the utilization review events for the first quarter of SFY 2011 and the fourth quarter of SFY 2010.

	Q1 SFY '11	Q4 SFY '10	Percent Change:
Drug-Age Precaution	23	48	-52.08%
Drug-Disease Precaution	13,500	12,978	4.02%
Drug-Drug Interaction	62,034	63,715	-2.64%
Ingredient Duplication	30,876	32,105	-3.83%
Refill Too Soon	11,643	12,375	-5.92%
Therapeutic Duplication	181,866	189,151	-3.85%
Total	299,942	310,372	-3.36%