

**Vermont Health Access
Pharmacy Benefit Management Program**

January, February and March 2012

**Quarterly Report to
Health Access Oversight Committee**

Q3 SFY 2012

Douglas A. Racine, Secretary
Vermont Agency of Human Services

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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 third quarter of State Fiscal Year 2012.

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, there were no informational mailings sent to pharmacy providers or prescribers:

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

Clinical Prior Authorization Requests				
	Requests	Approved	Changes	Denied
January	2,208	1,762	31	415
February	2,159	1,704	27	428
March	2,227	1,760	26	441
Total	6,594	5,226	84	1,284

Quantity Limit Prior Authorization Requests				
	Requests	Approved	Changes	Denied
January	271	222	8	41
February	246	218	4	24
March	297	249	10	38
Total	814	689	22	103

Combined Clinical and Quantity Limit Prior				
	Requests	Approved	Changes	Denied
January	2,479	1,984	39	456
February	2,405	1,922	31	452
March	2,524	2,009	36	479
Total	7,408	5,915	106	1,387

Data in the tables above show that DVHA received a total of 6,594 requests for **clinical prior authorizations (PA)** during the third quarter of State Fiscal Year 2012 (January, February and March, 2012). This represents a 12.2% increase from the total number of clinical prior authorization received during the previous quarter (5,881), and a 3.77% decrease from one year ago, Q3 SFY 2011, when total clinical PA requests were 6,852.

DVHA received a total of 814 requests for **quantity limit prior authorizations** during the third quarter of State Fiscal Year 2012, a decrease of 9.05% from the total number of quantity limit prior authorization requests received during the previous quarter (895), and a 19.09% decrease from one year ago, Q3 SFY 2011, when total quantity limit PA requests were 1,006.

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	<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>March</i>	Grand	% of
DVHA without Part D	<i>2012</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2012</i>	Total	Total
Drug-Age Precaution	234	23	9	266	0.09%
Drug-Disease Precaution	6,139	5,715	5,503	17,357	5.78%
Drug-Drug Interaction	20,612	20,472	18,965	60,049	19.99%
Ingredient Duplication	9,526	9,170	9,615	28,311	9.42%
Refill Too Soon	3,505	3,349	3,420	10,274	3.42%
Therapeutic Duplication	60,400	60,176	63,550	184,126	61.30%
Total	100,416	98,905	101,062	300,383	100.00%
DUR Description	<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>March</i>	Grand	% of
DVHA with Part D	<i>2012</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2012</i>	Total	Total
Drug-Age Precaution	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Drug-Disease Precaution	388	396	366	1,150	1.71%
Drug-Drug Interaction	10,670	10,933	10,433	32,036	47.60%
Ingredient Duplication	1,363	1,127	1,385	3,875	5.76%
Refill Too Soon	425	496	396	1,317	1.96%
Therapeutic Duplication	9,665	9,133	10,127	28,925	42.98%
Total	22,511	22,085	22,707	67,303	100.00%
Grand Total	122,927	120,990	123,769	367,686	

During the third quarter of SFY 2012, a total of 367,686 utilization events occurred. This was a 5.94% increase from the previous quarter, in which a total of 347,073 utilization review events occurred. Below is a comparison of the utilization review events for the second and third quarters of SFY 2012.

	Q3 SFY '12	Q2 SFY '12	Percent Change:
Drug-Age Precaution	266	169	57.40%
Drug-Disease Precaution	18,507	15,236	21.47%
Drug-Drug Interaction	92,085	83,164	10.73%
Ingredient Duplication	32,186	32,220	-0.11%
Refill Too Soon	11,591	12,459	-6.97%
Therapeutic Duplication	213,051	203,825	4.53%
Total	367,686	347,073	5.94%