

June 11, 2012

CHANGE TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE REFILLS AND DAYS SUPPLY

MAXIMUM DAYS SUPPLY DEA CLASS II – V MOVES TO ONE MONTH FOR DVHA BENEFICIARIES

June 1st, 2012

Dear Prescriber:

Issues surrounding prescription drug abuse in the state have been in the spotlight in Vermont. In an effort to better manage utilization of controlled substances, the Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board for the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) has listened to these concerns and has voted that the maximum days' supply for any DEA Class II – V medication should be one month regardless of whether it is prescribed for short term or maintenance therapy. Although not a scheduled drug, tramadol will also be included in this initiative due to its potential for misuse. In addition, to decrease the stockpiling of these medications, patients must use 85 % of their current prescription before either refilling their prescription or filling a new prescription for the same drug, dosage form, and strength (currently, prescriptions may be refilled when 75% of the duration of the current prescription has transpired). **This change goes into effect on June 11, 2012.**

Per our current pharmacy claims activity you have issued a prescription for a DEA Class II through V medication in a greater than one month supply in the recent past. We are alerting you to this change as we recognize that this change may have significant implications for prescribers since you will no longer be able to write prescriptions for greater than a one month supply. However, for schedule III through V medications you may include refills and for Schedule II drugs, you may write three – one month prescriptions at one time as allowed by Federal and State regulations (see below).

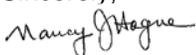
Examples of medications that are impacted by this change include ADHD stimulants, testosterone products, phenobarbital, Nuvigil[®], Onfi[®], clonazepam, Vimpat[®] and Lyrica[®].

Below are some suggestions for the management of controlled drug prescriptions as suggested by several of our pharmacist DUR Board members and supported by the Vermont Academic Detailing Program at the University of Vermont.

- Review the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System (VPMS) prior to writing a prescription for a new patient and periodically for established patients (you may delegate access to office staff to assist). If you are not yet enrolled, you and your delegates can register here: <http://www.healthvermont.gov/adap/VPMS.aspx>
- Consider writing prescriptions in 28-day supplies for patients not on monthly office schedules so that each prescription refill is due on the same day of the week (Tuesday, Wednesday, etc.). This will avoid weekends when pharmacy hours are shorter and prescribers may not be available.
- For patients who are not yet stable or who are assessed as a high abuse risk, consider writing two 14 day prescriptions with the second held by the office to be handed to patient after an appropriate evaluation, which may include a clean urine drug screening test. By law, the prescription to be filled later must include the future fill date.
- For stable patients where 3-month supplies are desired, consider giving the patient three one month prescriptions. All three prescriptions must have the date the prescriptions were written. Federal law requires that the two prescriptions to be filled later include the "future fill dates" so that the pharmacist knows when those prescriptions are allowed to be filled. Additional information on writing multiple prescriptions can be found here: http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/faq/mult_rx_faq.htm#2
- Do not mail prescriptions to patients unless absolutely necessary.

If you have questions related to this change in benefit coverage, please feel free to contact our on-site MedMetrics' Clinical Account Manager, Diane Neal, R.Ph, at 1-802-879-5605. Thank you for your continued support of the State of Vermont's pharmacy programs.

Sincerely,



Nancy Hogue, Pharm.D.
Director of Pharmacy Services