



State of Vermont

Agency of Human Services

Department of Vermont Health Access

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December 28, 2015

**\*\*\*Important Medicaid Pharmacy Program Notice\*\*\***

**PRESCRIBERS: VIVITROL FOR OPIATE AND ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE**

In order to optimize access to all medications used to treat opiate and alcohol dependence for Medicaid members, the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) has recently made changes to the prior authorization (PA) requirements for Vivitrol® (Naltrexone for extended-release injectable suspension).

For SPOKE and all Medicaid Prescribers:

VIVITROL® is indicated for the prevention of relapse to opioid dependence, following opioid detoxification. A step through buprenorphine/naloxone is no longer required as Vivitrol is best suited for those who are highly motivated to remain opiate-free. The prior authorization criteria does include a one week trial of oral Naltrexone to assure the patient has established tolerability of naltrexone before receiving a depot injection with a 30 day duration of action. In addition, in order to avoid a potentially severe precipitated withdrawal, patients must be opiate-free for at least 7-10 days. In addition, if the patient has received a dose in Corrections or in one of the treatment “Hubs” and the request is to continue existing treatment, providers only need to check a box on the PA form indicating prior therapy.

VIVITROL® is also indicated for the treatment of alcohol dependence in patients who are able to abstain from alcohol in an outpatient setting prior to initiation of treatment. Patients should not be actively drinking at the time of initial VIVITROL® administration.

The preferred drug list (PDL) and PA form have been updated to reflect these recent changes. Please note Quantity Limits of 1 injection (380 mg) per 30 days will apply.

PDL: <http://dvha.vermont.gov/for-providers/vemont-pdl-updated-12-08-2015-2.pdf>

PA Form: <http://dvha.vermont.gov/for-providers/vivitrol-2015.12.pdf>

Completed prior authorization request forms should be submitted via fax to 1-844-679-5366. They will be evaluated by clinical pharmacists at the Goold Health Systems (GHS) call center. Any questions should be directed to 1-844-679-5363.

For HUBS:

Due to the nature of delayed billing of J-codes for Vivitrol in the Hubs, there is no PA required for patients in the treatment Hubs, however it is expected that a trial of oral naltrexone will be completed before initiation of the depot injection for patient tolerability and safety. Hubs should use J2315-Naltrexone, depot form 1 MG to bill for an injection.

Thank you for your continued support of the State of Vermont’s Pharmacy benefits programs.