

MAY 3, 2011 PDL CHANGE

DVHA TO LIFT RESTRICTION ON DISPENSING OF GENERIC PANTOPRAZOLE

April 11, 2011

Dear Pharmacy Provider:

As you know, the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) has limited the dispensing of pantoprazole to branded Protonix[®] only, since the introduction of the generics to the market. While clearly an unconventional coverage limitation, this is primarily driven by lower net costs to the state for the brand compared to the MAC (maximum allowable cost).

DVHA reimburses pharmacies based on a "lower of" methodology and routinely re-evaluates the net cost of brand products that are preferred over their generics as MAC and FUL prices are updated.

Recently, MAC prices have dropped for generic pantoprazole. Consequently, **DVHA will be lifting its current restriction on generic pantoprazole effective 05/03/2011**. As such, all active prescriptions for brand-name Protonix[®] 20 and 40 mg tablets and any new prescriptions issued for either the generic or brand should be filled with a generic product beginning 05/03/2011. Effective 05/03/2011, any prescriptions for the branded product will require prior authorization.

We greatly appreciate your understanding and cooperation with these efforts. If you have questions related to these changes in benefit coverage, please feel free to contact our on-site MedMetrics' Clinical Account Manager, Diane Neal, R.Ph, at 1-802-879-5605 or our on-site MedMetrics' Program Representative, Michelle Sirois, at 1-802-879-5940.

Thank you for your continued support of the State of Vermont's pharmacy programs.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hogue, Pharm.D.
Director of Pharmacy Services