

## JULY 11, 2011 PDL CHANGE

### DVHA TO LIFT RESTRICTION ON DISPENSING OF GENERIC LOSARTAN and LOSARTAN/HYDROCHLOROTHIAZIDE

June 20, 2011

Dear Pharmacy Provider:

As you know, the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) has limited the dispensing of losartan and losartan/hydrochlorothiazide to branded Cozaar<sup>®</sup> and Hyzaar<sup>®</sup> 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 losartan and losartan/hydrochlorothiazide. Consequently, **DVHA will be lifting its current restriction on generic losartan and losartan/hydrochlorothiazide effective 07/11/2011.** As such, all active prescriptions for brand-name Cozaar<sup>®</sup> and Hyzaar<sup>®</sup> and any new prescriptions issued for either the generic or brand should be filled with a generic product beginning 07/11/2011. Effective 07/11/2011, any prescriptions for the branded product will require prior authorization in addition to meeting step therapy requirements.

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