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Important Changes to Incontinence Supplies for Medicaid

The Vermont Medicaid program is contracting with a single vendor who will provide incontinence supplies for Medicaid members, effective **8/15/2023**. Medicaid enrolled durable medical equipment providers may continue providing incontinence supplies through 8/14/2023. All medically necessary incontinence products for Vermont Medicaid members will be supplied solely through a single vendor, ActivStyle. This change will provide one point of contact to reduce barriers to access, improve member support, provide product options, and distribute supplies at a lower cost. Disposable incontinence supplies include the following products:

- Diapers
- Pull-up or pull-on briefs
- Underpads (Chux)
- Underwear guard or shield liners

Resources for Providers

- For information on clinical coverage criteria for incontinence supplies, please visit: <https://dvha.vermont.gov/forms-manuals/forms/prior-authorizations-tools-and-criteria/durable-medical-equipment>
- Providers should send prescriptions, standard written orders, and any other intake-related documentation via email to NewOrderCM@activstyle.com or via fax to 1-888-614-4635.
- The Provider Services team for ActivStyle can be contacted at 1-855-373-5141

Resources Providers can Share with Members

Members can learn more about ActivStyle by:

- Visiting the ActivStyle website at www.activstyle.com/vermont-medicaid-incontinence-program/
- Calling ActivStyle customer service at 1-800-506-1148 (Monday – Friday, 8AM – 7PM Central Time)

- Going to <https://dvha.vermont.gov/members/incontinence-supplies> for more information.
- Calling the Green Mountain Care Customer Support Center at **1-800-250-8427** for **questions**.

State of Emergency Flooding Extension

In response to the current state of Emergency in VT due to flooding, to ensure that Medicaid members have access to the medications they need, The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) has temporarily re-activated SCC 13 as an allowable NCPDP submission clarification code in the adjudication of pharmacy claims.

Changes to point-of-sale will be extended through 08/22/2023. This code is utilized by the dispensing pharmacist when processing an early refill for the patient and indicates that an override is needed based on an emergency/disaster situation recognized by the payer. The use of SCC 13 will override a Reject 79 (Refill too soon). It will NOT override either Reject 75 (prior authorization required) or Reject 76 (Plan limits exceeded). DVHA will monitor claims using this submission clarification code to ensure it is used only when medically necessary. Improper use of SCC13 will subject the claim to recoupment.

Changes to Administration Fee for Vaccines

The administration fee for vaccines will be changing from \$16.82 to \$17.45. This change will be effective for dates of service beginning 07/01/2023. This adjustment is being made to align with changes to the physician fee schedule (CPT code 90471) for adult vaccinations. DVHA-enrolled pharmacies may be reimbursed for vaccinations administered at pharmacies to adults 19 years and older who are enrolled in Vermont's publicly funded programs. Pharmacists must be certified to administer vaccines in the State of Vermont and must be compliant with all Vermont laws governing vaccine administration. Failure to comply with all Vermont immunization regulations will subject these claims to recoupment.

Children ages 6 months through 18 years presenting for vaccination at pharmacies should be referred to their health care provider for state-supplied vaccines. Pharmacies interested in vaccinating children may outreach the Vermont Child Vaccine Program ahs.vdhimmunizationprogram@vermont.gov.

Please note, this change does not apply to COVID-19 vaccine administration.

Through the pharmacy point-of-sale (POS) system, the pharmacy must submit the code "MA" in the Professional Service Code field to receive full reimbursement. There is no dispensing fee paid for pharmacist-administered vaccines. There is no member co-pay for administered vaccines. Pharmacies will continue to be reimbursed for the ingredient cost of the vaccine as well as the administration fee. An administration fee may be applied to adult ACIP recommended vaccines including:

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Herpes Zoster
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

- Influenza
- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)
- Meningococcal
- Pneumococcal
- Tetanus and Diphtheria
- Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis
- Varicella

Pharmacist-Provided Tobacco Cessation services

Effective July 1, 2021, the Vermont Medicaid program allows reimbursement for pharmacists providing tobacco cessation counseling. This change is being made to support the provisions of Act 178 of the 2020 legislative session, which authorizes pharmacists to prescribe tobacco cessation products. Pharmacists will be paid according to the Resource-Based Relative Value Scale (RBRVS) fee schedule. Tobacco Cessation CPT codes 99406 and 99407 will be open for pharmacists to bill with no PA required. Coverage will continue to be limited to 16 visits per year for Medicaid members, which can be exceeded with prior authorization. This expansion to cover tobacco cessation counseling services provided by pharmacists is expected to increase utilization of this benefit and improve the quit rate among Vermont Medicaid members. The law requires prescriptions for smoking cessation products be written in accordance with a protocol approved by the Commissioner of Health after consultation with the Director of Professional Regulation and the Board of Pharmacy. A protocol has been approved and posted on the Vermont Board of Pharmacy website, prescriptions written by pharmacists for smoking cessation products will be covered as specified on our Preferred Drug List . As a reminder, pharmacists must enroll with Vermont Medicaid as providers to prescribe smoking cessation products and to be reimbursed for counseling Medicaid members.

<https://vermont.hppcloud.com/Home/Index/>. 802 Quits: Please refer to 802quits.org/pharmacists to find tobacco treatment resources specifically for pharmacists and pharmacy staff.

This online resource contains: • tobacco treatment guidelines for pharmacists. • tips and talking points for patients at different stages of quitting. • descriptions of free 802Quits programs (phone, online, text) and gift card rewards. • free 802Quits tools and patient materials for your practice.

Reimbursement/Billing: All billing for providers who provide tobacco cessation counseling must bill through a medical claim. More information can be found in the General Billing and Forms Manual, and any billing questions can be directed to Gainwell Provider Services at 800-925-1706.

Over the Counter (OTC) Changes

Effective August 1, 2023, The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) is discontinuing coverage for over-the-counter melatonin, vitamin D, and antihistamine products. This change to coverage is a result of changes to the State Fiscal Year 2024 Medicaid budget. This coverage change applies to Medicaid members aged 21 and older and Medicare members enrolled in VPharm.

These products are available for purchase out-of-pocket without a prescription. Coverage will remain in place as medically necessary for Vermont Medicaid members under the age of 21 according to Health Care Administrative Rule 4.106 Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) Services. A 30-day notice has been provided to allow time to prepare for this change.

Drug Utilization Review Board (DURB)

Welcome to our new Drug Utilization Review Board (DURB) member, Bram Starr, MD. Dr. Starr has been a practicing family physician for over 35 years and currently practices with Central Vermont Primary Care. Dr. Starr also volunteers his medical services at the People's Health and Wellness Clinic where he provides health care to individuals who are uninsured or underinsured and can't afford to pay for needed care. His initial term on the DUR Board will be 09/01/23 – 08/31/26.

Drug Utilization Review Board (DURB) Upcoming Meeting Dates

September 12, 2023
October 24, 2023
December 5, 2023

If you or someone you know would like to be added to all pharmacy communications, please email ahs.dvhaph@state.vt.us