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June 2022

Point of Sale (POS) Blackout Period

Due to the need to perform system maintenance, the Department of Vermont Health Access POS system will be unavailable for approximately **8 hours starting at 8:00 PM on Wednesday, July 6, 2022**. Pharmacy claims will not be adjudicated during this time.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Providers may verify member eligibility using the Green Mountain Eligibility Verification System (EVS) by calling toll-free in Vermont (800) 925-1706; local and out-of-state (802) 878-7871, then press #1.

You can also check eligibility on-line using the VTMEDICAID Web Services Portal at: <https://www.vtmedicaid.com/secure/logon.do>

Changes to VPharm 2 and VPharm 3 Coverage

**Beginning 7/1/2022**, The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) will be expanding the drug coverage available under VPharm 2 and VPharm 3 to be equivalent to the drug coverage available under VPharm 1. These changes result from Vermont's new Global Commitment to Health 1115 waiver which will allow VPharm 2 and VPharm 3 enrollees to receive \$1/2 copays for more drugs through VPharm, not just "maintenance" drugs. Previously, VPharm 2 and Phirm 3 coverage was limited to maintenance medications, over-the-counter medications, and diabetic supplies.

This change will result in lower out of pocket costs for Vpharm members. Please bill the members Medicaid (Vpharm) as secondary for all medications to ensure this change in coverage is applied accurately. For prescriptions with DVHA cost share of \$29.99 or less, the patient will receive a \$1.00 co-payment. Prescriptions with DVHA cost share of \$30.00 or more will receive a \$2.00 co-payment.

Please note that VPharm 1 is not changing. This is an expansion of drug coverage for people who are enrolled in VPharm 2 and VPharm 3.

For questions, please contact the Change Healthcare Pharmacy Help Desk at 1-844-679-5362. Vermont providers can also send inquiries via email to

[PBA\\_VTHelpdesk@changehealthcare.com](mailto:PBA_VTHelpdesk@changehealthcare.com). Thank you for your continued support of Vermont's clinical pharmacy programs.

### **Changes to Coverage for Etonogestrel/Ethinyl Estradiol Vaginal Ring**

Effective 6/10/22, generic formulations of etonogestrel/ethinyl estradiol vaginal ring be moving to a non-preferred status on the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) Preferred Drug List (PDL).

Brand Nuvaring®, manufactured by Organon, has a significantly lower net cost to Vermont Medicaid compared to currently available generics and will remain preferred on the PDL. We continually monitor the net costs of these medications and periodically adjust the PDL if new cost-effective products become available. If you feel it is medically necessary for your patient to use a non-preferred product, a prior authorization will be required

### **Blood Glucose Test Strip Quantity Limits**

The Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board is composed of practicing Vermont pharmacists and physicians who are responsible for reviewing and advising the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) about prescription benefit utilization for Vermont Medicaid enrollees. During a recent meeting, the DUR Board discussed blood glucose test strip utilization in members also using a continuous glucose monitor. A review of pharmacy dispensing data identified multiple patients using significant number of test strips, some upwards of 10 strips per day. The board voted to implement quantity limits on test strips to ensure medical necessity when more than 6 test strips per day are being dispensed. This will apply to all members regardless of concurrent CGM use. **Effective 6/10/22**, a prior authorization will be required for members using more than 200 strips per 30 days.

### **802 Quits Supports Pharmacists in Helping Patients Quit Smoking**

When patients are ready to quit smoking, vaping, or other commercial tobacco use, be ready to help. At any one time, 60-70% of tobacco users are interested in quitting. Receiving brief counseling, paired with nicotine replacement therapy, more than doubles a person's success.

State quitlines serve as adjunct to care. 802Quits, Vermont's free tobacco treatment resource, provides peer-reviewed materials for pharmacists, so you can be a key advisor to Vermonters seeking to quit or maintain abstinence.

Visit [802quits.org/pharmacists](https://802quits.org/pharmacists) today to discover a full range of services and pharmacy materials:

- Prescription and Counseling Protocols
- Accredited Trainings
- Assessment Resources
- Talking Points & Tips
- Downloadable Forms and Materials
- Jacket Buttons
- Window Clings

It's easy to refer patients to 802Quits! Direct adults 18 and older to [802quits.org](https://802quits.org) for information on free nicotine replacement therapy and evidence-based pathways to quitting, along with quit tools and a customized quit plan. Download the [fax referral form \(PDF\)](#) or [send one electronically during the visit](#).

Visit [802quits.org/pharmacists](https://802quits.org/pharmacists) to find the resources you need to help patients on their path to becoming tobacco-free.

## Drug Utilization Review Board (DURB)

Drug Utilization Review Board Meeting was held on June 21, 2022, via Teams. Minutes for these meetings can be found at <https://dvha.vermont.gov/advisory-boards/drug-utilization-review-board/durb-meeting-minutes>

Reviewed and discussed by the DUR Board:

**Therapeutic Drug Class:** Anticonvulsants (new drug Eprontia® (topiramate solution) included), Ophthalmic Antibiotics, Ophthalmic Allergic Conjunctivitis, Ophthalmic Glaucoma Agents, Ophthalmic Dry Eye Agents, Ophthalmic Anti-Inflammatory, Stimulants and Related Agents, and Sickle Cell Anemia

**RetroDUR/ProDUR:** Data presentation: Concurrent Use of GLP-1 Receptor Agonists and DPP-4 Inhibitors, and Introduce: Metabolic Monitoring for Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotics

**Full New Drug Reviews:** Apretude® (cabotegravir), Livtency® (maribavir), Voxzogo® (vosoritide), and Vuity® (pilocarpine HCL)