

DVHA

Pharmacy Newsletter

March 2023

Inside this issue:

- ✓ Point of Sale (POS) Blackout Period
- ✓ Important Changes to Administration Fee for Vaccines – Effective 3/15/2023
- ✓ DUR Board is Seeking Board Members
- ✓ Pharmacy Benefit Provider Satisfaction Survey for Pharmacies and Prescribers
- ✓ Update on Synagis® (palivizumab) Dispensing.

Important: 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 EST on **Wednesday, March 29, 2023**. 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>

DVHA would like to thank all Medicaid pharmacy providers for their patience during this process. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please call the POS Helpdesk at 1-844-679-5362.

Important Changes to Administration Fee for Vaccines

Effective 3/15/23, the pharmacy administration fee for vaccines will be changing from \$13.87 to \$16.82. 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. 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

The Drug Utilization Review Board is Currently Seeking Qualified Physician and Mid-Level Practitioner Board Members

The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) manages publicly funded programs for the State of Vermont including the pharmacy benefit program and oversees the activities of the Drug Utilization Review Board (DURB). The DURB is composed of prescribers, pharmacists, and other qualified medical professionals that meet approximately every six weeks with a total of seven meetings per year. Currently, the meetings are held via a hybrid model consisting of virtual or in-person attendance options (in-person dinner is provided). Members of the Board may receive per diem compensation for attendance and mileage reimbursement for travel. Materials for the meeting are sent via email ahead of time to allow DUR Board members to review before the meeting. The agenda typically consists of:

- Drug utilization review and analyses
- Review of new drugs, new indications, and dosage forms
- Therapeutic class review including recently published treatment guidelines and best practices that may influence clinical criteria
- Safety information
- Drug information pertinent to managing the drug benefit programs of DVHA for the State of Vermont

You can find the DURB description, meeting schedule and location, meeting agenda, meeting minutes, current members, and contact information on our website at [Drug Utilization Review Board | Department of Vermont Health Access](#)

For additional information on becoming a member of the Drug Utilization Review Board, please email or call Taylor Robichaud, PharmD at Taylor.A.Robichaud@Vermont.gov / 802-585-8744

Pharmacy Benefit Provider Satisfaction Survey for Pharmacies and Prescribers

The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) contracts with Change Healthcare to support Vermont's publicly funded pharmacy benefit programs. The Change Healthcare help desk supports all pharmacies and prescribers enrolled in Vermont's pharmacy benefit programs. It is the first point of contact for pharmacy and medical providers for drug prior authorization requests, drug claims processing issues, and other drug-related questions, concerns, and complaints. Change Healthcare is conducting a provider satisfaction survey of pharmacies and prescribers. This survey is required annually by DVHA to assure that enrolled providers are receiving the highest quality of service possible from its contracted vendors. Your participation in this survey is very important to DVHA as responses from this survey will be used for quality improvement efforts.

The entire survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete and can be found at the following link:

https://changehealthcare.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7QjutzmXVcbkOI5

The survey can also be accessed by using the following QR Code:



Update on Synagis® (palivizumab) Dispensing

The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA), in coordination with their Pharmacy Benefits Manager Change Healthcare, review data from the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) to track the epidemic season for Synagis® (palivizumab). Synagis® is indicated for the prevention of serious lower respiratory tract disease caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in pediatric patients. The DVHA's normal determination for the end of Synagis® "season" is when the percent positives on antigen tests is $\leq 10\%$ for 2 weeks or the percent positives on PCR tests is $\leq 3\%$ for 2 consecutive weeks. At this time, since positivity rates have remained below 3% for 3 weeks, the RSV season is considered to have ended.

Synagis® prophylaxis is of unproven value when administered outside of the RSV season as defined by the Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) surveillance reports

(<https://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/nrevss/rsv/state.html#VT>). Therefore, no further shipments will be authorized after 3/3/23.

Drug Utilization Review Board (DURB)

DUR Board virtual and in person meeting was held on February 7, 2023. Minutes for the meeting 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: Gaucher Disease, Hemophilia/Factor Deficiency, Hereditary Angioedema, Muscular Dystrophy Pancreatic Enzymes, Platelet Stimulating Agents, Prenatal Vitamins, Psoriasis (Non- biologics) Oral & Topical (New Drugs Vtama® (tapinarof) and Zoryve® (roflumilast) included)

RetroDUR/ProDUR: Data presentation: Appropriate use of Asthma Controller Medications and Introduce: Use of Warfarin with Antibiotics

Full New Drug Reviews: Enjaymo® (sutimlimab-jome), Entadfi® (finasteride/tadalafil), Hyftor® (sirolimus topical), Korsuva® (difelikefalin), Verkazia® (cyclosporine ophthalmic solution), Vivjoa® (oteseconazole capsules), and Ztalmy® (ganaxolone)

Review of Newly Developed/Revised Criteria: Liquid Oral Nutritional Supplements and Buprenorphine Safety Checklist

Drug Utilization Review Board (DURB) Upcoming Meeting Dates

March 28, 2023

May 9, 2023

June 20, 2023

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