



State of Vermont
Department of Vermont Health Access
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Dear Provider,

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 drug utilization for Vermont Medicaid enrollees. The Retrospective Drug Utilization Review (Retro DUR) program is an educational program designed to improve the quality of patient care. Recently, the DUR Board completed a review of pharmacy dispensing data from State Fiscal Year 2022 (7/1/21-6/30/22) of patients on warfarin that also had a claim for an antibiotic considered to be high-risk of interaction. These include trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole (TMP/SMZ), ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin, metronidazole, azithromycin, clarithromycin, and the antifungal fluconazole.

Closely monitoring the warfarin dose and INR when patients are prescribed these antibiotics is recommended, and dose alterations or withholding doses is sometimes necessary. Therefore, medical claims were reviewed to see if INR monitoring was completed for the above patient population after the antibiotic was prescribed. **It appears that only 5% of patients had an INR checked within 5 days of starting a high-risk antibiotic, and in many cases the prescriber of the antibiotic was not the same as the prescriber of warfarin.** Outcomes of this review included the possibility of hospital admissions with a diagnosis related to hemorrhagic disorders when prescribed high-risk antibiotics with warfarin. The available information indicates that most members on warfarin were not routinely having their INR value checked after starting antibiotics.

This notice is a reminder to consider the importance of INR monitoring in patients using warfarin when prescribed an antibiotic or antifungal. We appreciate all you do to improve the health of Vermont Medicaid enrollees and welcome any questions or concerns you may have. The DVHA pharmacy team can be reached at ahs.dvhaph@vermont.gov.

Sincerely,

Michael Rapaport, MD
Chief Medical Officer