

State of Vermont

Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA)

NOB 1 South, 280 State Drive

Waterbury, VT 05671-1010

March 17, 2020

****Attention Pharmacies and Prescribers****
Important Pharmacy Information in Response to COVID-19

In response to COVID-19 concerns and to ensure that Medicaid members have access to the medications they need, the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) is implementing the following changes to its prescription drug benefits programs, effective 3/18/2020:

1. Members may request early refills of medication up to a 90-day supply as needed.

- Pharmacies will be able to override the early refill edit by using the NCPDP Submission Clarification Code=13 for the adjudication of pharmacy claims. 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) and applies to all drugs including controlled substances for which refills are allowed. 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.

2. The day supply limit for Suboxone Film has been extended up to 30-days. Non-preferred buprenorphine formulations are also extended up to 30-days but will require the pharmacist to call the Help Desk for an override. The prescriber may need to be contacted for an adjustment to the quantity written on the prescription.

3. Co-pays are being waived for medications that may be used to treat the symptoms of COVID-19.

- This includes antihistamines, cough suppressants, anti-febrile/analgesic medications, cough & cold combination products, inhalers, and leukotriene receptor antagonists.

4. The 90-day supply requirement for select medications can be overridden to allow pharmacies to better manage their inventory and avoid any drug shortages. Pharmacies must call the Help Desk for an override at this time.

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. Thank you for your continued support of Vermont's pharmacy benefits programs.