
State of Vermont

Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA)

NOB 1 South, 280 State Drive

Waterbury, VT 05671-1010

December 29, 2020

****Attention Pharmacies and Prescribers****
Important Information about
Prior Authorization Extensions

Beginning May 1, 2020, DVHA extended all existing drug prior authorizations (PAs) for an additional six months past their current expiration date to reduce administrative requirements on provider offices and facilitate medication access for Medicaid members. These extensions were applied on a monthly rolling basis through the end of December 2020. This did not affect the requirement for new PA requests. **Beginning January 1, 2021 DVHA will no longer extend existing PAs beyond their normal expiration date.**

Based on an analysis of active PAs, beginning in January this will likely result in 1-2 additional PA requests per week for 95% of all providers. A very small number of providers may exceed the 1-2 requests per week, but data indicates no provider should have more than an additional 4 PA requests per week. This change does not impact new drugs being prescribed that require PA.

For any questions, please contact the **Change Healthcare Provider Help Desk at 1-844-679-5362**. Vermont providers can also send inquiries via email to PBA_VTHelpdesk@changehealthcare.com . Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to Medicaid members during the Public Health Emergency.