
State of Vermont

Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA)

NOB 1 South, 280 State Drive

Waterbury, VT 05671-1010

May 1, 2020

****Attention Pharmacies and Prescribers****
Important Information in Response to the COVID-19 Emergency
Extension of Prior Authorizations

To reduce workload on provider offices and facilitate medication access for Medicaid members during the current emergency, beginning on May 1, 2020 DVHA is extending all existing drug prior authorizations (PAs) for an additional six months past their current expiration date. Application of these extensions will be evaluated each month throughout the COVID-19 emergency. This will include both drugs picked up in a pharmacy and physician-administered drugs. The extensions will be applied on a monthly rolling basis. For example, PAs expiring in May will be extended through November, June through December and so on. This will include all drugs except those that are not clinically appropriate to extend (for example: acute antibiotics, Hepatitis C antivirals, loading doses, or medications used during pregnancy). **This will not affect new PA requests, only renewals.**

Providers who have the staffing resources may also choose to submit prior authorization renewals normally.

Change Healthcare will continue to process and evaluate any prior authorizations received if you choose to submit them.

You will receive a Notice of Decision per the normal process.

Current Options with Prior Authorizations:

- 1) Do nothing and your PA renewals will be extended for six months from their current expiration date.
- 2) Continue to submit PA renewals normally, and if approved, the majority are applied for one year (some exclusions apply, e.g. Long Acting Narcotics, Skeletal Muscle Relaxants)

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 this difficult time.