

# Title: Prior Authorization Process for HUBs

**Issuance Date: September 27, 2023**

(Must be reviewed annually)

## Applicable Regulations, Guidelines, and AHS Policy:

### Vermont statute or rule:

7102: Prior Authorization <http://humanservices.vermont.gov/on-line-rules/dvha/medicaid-covered-services-7100-7700/view>

### Purpose:

DVHA Covered Services Rule 7102 requires that Prior Authorization (PA) be granted for certain services. The rule requires that DVHA determine that such services are medically necessary before authorizing payment for the service. DVHA's contracted Pharmacy Benefit Administrator (PBA) performs this determination on DVHA's behalf with respect to all pharmacy services. DVHA's preferred drug list specifies that PA is required for some medications used to treat opioid use disorder (OUDs)

This process differs from that of the physicians who provide medication-assisted treatment (MAT) in their offices, referred to as Office-Based Opioid Treatment (OBOT), who utilize retail pharmacies to dispense their patients' buprenorphine products. The Hub prescribers work in settings that purchase these drugs directly from a supplier and then bill the State for reimbursement using a J-code on a HCFA-1500 claim form. Claims are then processed through DVHA's medical benefit versus the pharmacy benefit. Therefore, the prior authorization must be applied directly into MMIS. Members who are patients of HUBs receive direct daily care and supervision and may receive more care, attention, and counseling than a member who has transitioned out of a HUB and into a Spoke.

This process ensures that PA requests from HUB prescribers for buprenorphine products are received and processed accurately.

### Procedure:

This procedure is for Members who receive Suboxone/buprenorphine through outpatient treatment programs (OTPs) otherwise known as Hubs.

Step 1: HUB Prescribers send PA requests to DVHA's PBA.

Step 2: DVHA's PBA evaluates requests and makes determination of approval/denial based on clinical review.

Step 3: DVHA’s PBA sends notice of decision to Pharmacy Consultant in the Pharmacy Unit via encrypted email or fax.

Step 4: DVHA Pharmacy Program Consultant enters the PA decision into the MMIS.

Step 5: MMIS issues notices of decision to member, prescriber, HUB, and the Pharmacy Unit at DVHA.

### Revision History:

Date	Summary of Revisions
7/3/18	Draft sent.
9/12/18	Revisions to draft.
10/1/18	Revisions to draft.
11/13/18	Accepted by OMU.
12/4/18	Legal review.
12/6/2018	Final draft.
2/11/21	No update in 2020 - changed approval date to current date.
9/27/2023	OMU update to ADA template.

Table 1 Revision History