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**DURB****2025 Schedule Meeting Dates**

**2025 meetings are now held on Thursdays.**

February 6

March 27

May 8

June 26

September 11

October 23

December 1

**Changes to Administration Fee for Vaccines and Prep Act Extension**

Starting January 1, 2025, the administration fee for non-COVID-19 vaccines will be \$17.59. For COVID-19 vaccines, the fee will be \$39.40. This change aligns with updates to the physician fee schedule for vaccinations.

Vermont Medicaid enrolled pharmacies can be reimbursed for vaccinations to Medicaid members. The Federal PREP Act was extended on December 11, 2024. As a result, Vermont Medicaid will continue to cover COVID-19 vaccines and their administration for children ages 3 and older outside of the Vermont Vaccines for Children Program.

**Optum Rx Notice: Observance of Christmas and New Years**

In observance of Christmas and New Years the Optum Vermont Pharmacy helpdesk (formerly Change Healthcare) will have reduced hours (8am to 4pm) on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The Helpdesk will be closed Wednesday, December 25, 2024, and Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

If you have an emergency, please contact our helpdesk using our standard after-hours numbers, 1-844-679-5362 or 1-844-679-5363. Your call will be returned within 15 minutes.

**Coverage Changes for Emergency Use Authorized Drugs**

Effective January 1, 2025, coverage is ending for drugs for the treatment of COVID-19 that are not FDA-approved. This includes drugs such as Lagevrio (molnupiravir) and Pempgarda (pemivibart). This change aligns with Medicare Part D coverage and reflects the conclusion of the COVID-19 coverage period. FDA approved treatments for COVID-19 continue to be covered.

**Vermont Medicaid Pharmacy Cost of Dispensing Survey**

The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) will be performing a pharmacy cost of dispensing survey to analyze the cost of dispensing prescription medications to Vermont Medicaid members. To

perform this survey Vermont has partnered with the New England States Consortium Systems Organization (NESCSO) and the accounting firm of Myers and Stauffer LC, a reputable firm with extensive experience in pharmacy costs and reimbursement. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published regulation, Federal Covered Outpatient Drugs Final Rule (CMS-2345-FC), requires State Medicaid agencies to adopt pharmacy reimbursement methodologies to pay pharmacies for the actual acquisition cost of drugs plus a professional dispensing fee. A copy of the CMS Covered Outpatient Drugs Final Rule (CMS-2345FC) published on February 2, 2016 can be found on the Federal Register at this link:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/02/01/2016-01274/medicaid-program-covered-outpatient-drugs>. The pharmacy cost of dispensing survey will provide the state with information to evaluate the professional dispensing fee component of the Medicaid pharmacy reimbursement.

Over the next few weeks, you will be receiving a pharmacy cost of dispensing survey packet as part of the process to evaluate the costs associated with dispensing prescription medication. All Vermont Medicaid pharmacy providers should complete the survey. Your cooperation in providing the information for this survey process will be greatly appreciated.

### **Influenza (Flu) 2024/25 season**

DVHA-enrolled pharmacies may be reimbursed for injectable influenza vaccinations administered by pharmacists to adults 19 years and older who are enrolled in Vermont's publicly funded programs. Pharmacists must be enrolled with Vermont Medicaid, certified to administer vaccines in the State of Vermont and must be compliant with all Vermont laws governing vaccine administration. Failure to comply with all Vermont immunization regulations will subject these claims to recoupment.

Participation in the Vermont Child Vaccine Program (VCVP) is mandatory for providers who wish to provide influenza vaccinations to children under age 19 insured by Vermont Medicaid. Pharmacies who wish to receive reimbursement for administering flu vaccines to Medicaid-eligible children must enroll in the VCVP program. More information about enrollment and forms can be found on the Vermont Department of Health website.

Administration Fee Paid for these Preferred Vaccines, no PA required:

- Afluria®
- FluLaval®
- Fluzone®
- Fluarix®

Based on Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations, the following vaccines will also be preferred for members ≥ 65 years of age:

- Fluzone® High-Dose
- Fluad®

Pharmacies are reimbursed for the ingredient cost of the vaccine as well as the administration fee. No dispensing fee is paid for these claims. Through the pharmacy POS system, the pharmacy must submit the code "MA" in the Professional Service Code field for the influenza vaccine claim to receive full reimbursement. Please note there will be NO member copay for influenza vaccines.

Required NCPDP Fields		
NCPDP Field Number	NCPDP Field Description	Required Code
44Ø-E5	Professional Service Code	MA
4Ø7-D7	Product/Service ID	NDC for Flu Vaccine

**Preferred Drug List (PDL) Changes  
Effective January 1, 2025**

Moving to Preferred	
Acular LS (ketorolac)	Nevanac (nepafenac)
adalimumab-adbm	olanzapine ODT
Altuviiiio (Recombinant [Fc-VWF-XTEN Fusion Protein-ehtl])	Opzelura (ruxolitinib) #
Albuterol HFA (Sandoz labeler)	Orilissa (elagolix) #
Asmanex (mometasone furoate) HFA	Qelbree (viloxazine hydrochloride) #
Botox (onabotulinumtoxinA)#	Rybelsus (semaglutide) #
Carbaglu (carglumic acid)	Rykindo (risperidone injection, extended release)
Cleocin (clindamycin) vaginal cream 2%	Sildenafil suspension #
Dysport (abobotulinumtoxinA)#	Skyrizi (risankizumab-rzaa) #
Ermeza (levothyroxine sodium) #	Synjardy XR (empagliflozin/metformin ER)
Eysuvis (loteprednol etabonate) ophthalmic suspension	Tazarotene cream and gel
Fiasp (insulin aspart)	Tetrabenazine
Flurbiprofen 0.03% ophthalmic suspension	Tyenne (tocilizumab-aazg)
Gavilyte –C	Vtama (tapinarof) cream
Golytely	Xaciato (clindamycin)
Humulin 70/30 (NPH/regular)	
Moving to Non-Preferred	
Adderall XR (dextroamphetamine/ amphetamine XR)	Invokana (canagliflozin)
Advate*	Kogenate
Afstyla	Methylin (methylphenidate) solution
Carglumic acid	Novolog (insulin aspart)
Clindamycin vaginal cream 2%	Ozempic (semaglutide)*
dapagliflozin	Recombinate
Enemeez (docusate) enema	risperidone ER injection suspension
Flarex (fluorometholone acetate)	Tiotropium bromide inhaler
Hemangeol (propranolol) solution	Toviaz (fesoterodine)
Humalog (insulin lispro) Kwikpen U-200	Tresiba (insulin degludec)
Invokamet (canagliflozin/metformin)	Zyprexa Relprevv (olanzapine pamoate)

**New Drug Utilization Board (DURB) Members**

We are pleased to announce Julie MacDougall, PharmD, MBA, BCPS and Heather Doyle Stein, M.D., as our newest DUR Board members.

Dr. MacDougall graduated from the University of Rhode Island with her Doctor of Pharmacy and a Master of Business Administration in 2014 and completed her residency with the University of Vermont Medical Center in 2015.

Dr. Stein graduated from West Virginia University School of Medicine in 2008 and completed her residency with the University of Vermont College of Medicine in 2011. Heather is board certified in Family Medicine and Addiction Medicine.

More information about the DUR Board can be found on this link: <http://dvha.vermont.gov/advisory-boards>