



**State of Vermont**  
**Department of Vermont Health Access**  
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**\*\*Updates to Buprenorphine Prior Authorization Requirements\*\***

Dear Medicaid Provider,

During their last session, the Vermont Legislature passed Act H.222. Sec 8b of the Act requires the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) allow health care providers practicing in an office-based opioid treatment program to prescribe up to 24mg of the preferred buprenorphine formulation(s) without prior authorization. DVHA, in coordination with their pharmacy benefits manager, Change Healthcare, will be making the necessary Point-of-Sale system changes to accommodate this new daily dose limit. Non-preferred formulations and doses exceeding 24mg/day will continue to require prior authorization.

**Effective 10/6/23**, the maximum daily dose for Buprenorphine/naloxone tablets and Suboxone® (buprenorphine/naloxone) films will change from 16mg to 24mg/day. Quantity limits will also be modified accordingly:

4mg = 1 film per day

8mg = 3 films or tablets per day

12mg = 2 films per day

No quantity limit applies for the 2mg dosage form.

The Division of Substance Use at the Vermont Department of Health continues to support the focus on safety when prescribing buprenorphine. Both ASAM and DVHA Guidelines recommend monitoring for medication diversion and the appropriateness of continued treatment.

Effective 10/6/23, DVHA will also be making both extended-release injectable formulations of buprenorphine, which are associated with lower diversion risk, more accessible to providers and patients. Sublocade® will be moving to preferred and Brixadi® will be added as a preferred agent. Sublocade® will be limited to 1 injection per 28 days. Brixadi® Weekly will be limited to 1 injection per week (max of 4 injections per 28 days) and Brixadi® monthly will be limited to 1 injection per 28 days.

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 clinical pharmacy programs.