

State of Vermont**Department of Vermont Health Access**

NOB 1 South, 280 State Drive
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Agency of Human Services

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Dear Provider,

The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) previously selected BriovaRx® as the preferred pharmacy to dispense select specialty medications for Medicaid beneficiaries. **Effective 5/1/17**, DVHA will be expanding the number of pharmacies that can dispense these medications. In conjunction with this change, DVHA and Change Healthcare (formerly Goold Health Systems) also performed an extensive review of specialty medications. Amicar®, Botox®, Epogen®, Gleevec®, Neupogen®, Neulasta®, Procrit®, Sprycel®, Xeljanz®, and select growth hormones (Genotropin®, Humatrope®, Norditropin®, Nutropin®, Omnitrope®, and Zomacton®) will no longer be designated as specialty medications and may now be dispensed by any pharmacy enrolled with Vermont Medicaid. A current list of specialty medications (updated quarterly) may be found on the DVHA website at <http://dvha.vermont.gov/providers/specialtydrugweblist-20170421.pdf>. A specialty drug must meet a minimum of (2) of the following requirements:

- The cost of the medication exceeds \$5000 per month.
- The medication is used in the treatment of a complex, chronic condition. This may include but is not limited to drugs which require administration, infusion, or injection by a health care professional.
- The manufacturer or FDA requires exclusive, restricted, or limited distribution. This includes medications which have REMS requirements requiring training, certifications, or ongoing monitoring in order for the drug to be distributed.
- The medication requires specialized handling, storage, or inventory reporting requirements.

These include but are not limited to drugs used in the treatment of the following conditions:

- Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency
- Cancer
- Contraceptive implants and IUD's
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Endocrine Disorders
- Enzyme Deficiencies
- Hemophilia
- Hepatitis C
- Hereditary Angioedema
- Immune Deficiency
- Inflammatory Conditions (e.g. Crohn's, Ulcerative Colitis, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriatic Arthritis, Ankylosing Spondylitis, and Psoriasis)
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

Prior authorization/order forms should now be sent directly to Change Healthcare at 844-679-5366. Prescribers and/or patients may continue to use BriovaRx® or select another specialty pharmacy for dispensing specialty medications. A notice of determination (or request for additional information, if applicable) will be returned to both the prescriber's office and specialty pharmacy within 24 hours of receipt of the PA. **Referrals for nursing services must be requested directly through the home health agency.**

Prior authorization forms may be accessed for printing on the Department of Vermont Health Access website:
<http://dvha.vermont.gov/for-providers/pharmacy-prior-authorization-request-forms>

DVHA defines a specialty pharmacy as outlined by the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) in a recent publication entitled *Format for Formulary Submission*, version 3.1 and the Specialty Pharmacy Association of America's definition below.

In addition to these definitions, DVHA will require any Specialty Pharmacy dispensing Specialty Drugs to DVHA members to be Certified by the Utilization Review Accreditation Commission (URAC) URAC, the Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC), or the Center for Pharmacy Practice Accreditation (CPPA).

“Specialty pharmacies are distinct from traditional pharmacies in coordinating many aspects of patient care and disease management. They are designed to efficiently deliver medications with specialized handling, storage, and distribution requirements with standardized processes that permit economies of scale. Specialty pharmacies are also designed to improve clinical and economic outcomes for patients with complex, often chronic and rare conditions, with close contact and management by clinicians. Health care professionals employed by specialty pharmacies provide patient education, help ensure appropriate medication use, promote adherence, and attempt to avoid unnecessary costs. Other support systems coordinate sharing of information among clinicians treating patients and help patients locate resources to provide financial assistance with out of pocket expenditures.”

The Specialty Pharmacy Association of America defines a specialty pharmacy as follows:

“Specialty pharmacy is a unique class of professional pharmacy practice that includes a comprehensive and coordinated model of care for patients with chronic illnesses and complex medical conditions. This unparalleled, patient-centric model is organized to dispense/distribute typically high cost, injectable/infusible/oral and other hard-to-manage therapies within a collaborative framework designed to achieve superior clinical, humanistic, and economic outcomes.”

The following pharmacies will be added to the specialty pharmacy network based on these criteria and dispensing history from the past year. If your pharmacy is not on this list and you are enrolled and specialty certified, please contact Provider Services at 802-879-4450 and select option 4 or contact Suellen Bottiggi in Provider and Member Service at 802-871-3187.

- Accredo Health Group
- Anovo Rx Group
- Avella of Deer Valley
- BriovaRx
- CVS Specialty
- Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy
- Foundation Care
- Noble Health Services
- Pharmaceutical Specialties
- Red Chip of Nevada
- US Bioservices Corporation
- Wilcox Medical
- Advanced Care Scripts
- Apothecary by Design
- Biologics Inc.
- Centric Health Resources
- Dartmouth-Hitchcock Pharmacy
- Express Scripts Specialty
- Magellan Rx Pharmacy
- Orsini Pharmaceutical Servies
- ProCare Pharmacy
- Rutland Pharmacy
- Walgreen's Specialty

Thank you for your continued support of DVHA clinical pharmacy programs. Please call the Provider Help Desk at 844-679-5363 if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Nancy Hogue, Pharm.D.

Director of Pharmacy Services