

State of Vermont

Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA)

NOB 1 South, 280 State Drive

Waterbury, VT 05671-1010

March 27, 2020

****Attention Pharmacies and Prescribers****
Important Pharmacy Information in Response to COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure that Medicaid members have access to the medications they need, the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) is implementing the following changes to its prescription drug benefits programs, effective Friday, March 27, 2020.

- 1. The mandatory 90-day supply requirement for select medications was suspended to allow pharmacies to better manage their inventory and help avoid drug shortages on March 18th, 2020. Pharmacists may now override this reject code without calling the Pharmacy Help Desk.**

Pharmacies will be able to override the mandatory 90-day supply requirement for maintenance medications by using the NCPDP Submission Clarification Code=13 for the adjudication of pharmacy claims. This code is utilized by the dispensing pharmacist when processing a claim for the patient and indicates that an override is needed based on an emergency/disaster situation recognized by the payer. DVHA will monitor claims using this submission clarification code to ensure it is used only when medically necessary. Improper use of SCC13 will subject the claim to recoupment.

- 2. Signature requirements are being waived for receipt or delivery of prescriptions.**

In alignment with other payers in Vermont, pharmacists are no longer required to obtain a signature for prescription receipt or delivery. Pharmacists may write "COVID-19" or similar language on a prescription as an equivalent to receiving a patient signature.

- 3. All Albuterol HFA formulations are available without prior authorization.**

To address reported shortages, we have removed the requirement of a prior authorization for all formulations of Albuterol HFA. This includes: ProAir[®] HFA, Proventil[®] HFA, Ventolin[®] HFA, and generic Albuterol HFA. This also includes ProAir[®] Respiclick (albuterol sulfate inhalation powder). DVHA is encouraging pharmacies to carefully assess the number of inhalers a patient needs to prevent stockpiling and further shortages.

- 4. Pharmacies that are providing delivery services to members, see below:**

Please contact DVHA if your pharmacy offers a free delivery service so we can provide this information to members. Refer to <http://dvha.vermont.gov/providers/pharmacy> under "COVID-19 information" for a current list. To add your pharmacy to the list or make a correction, please contact the Pharmacy Team at ahs.dvhaph@vermont.gov.

For other 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 ongoing support.