



State of Vermont

Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA)

NOB 1 South, 280 State Drive

Waterbury, VT 05671-1010

July 16, 2020

****Attention Pharmacies ****

Important Update on Early Refill Overrides with Submission Clarification Code (SCC)=13

In response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) and to ensure that Medicaid members have access to the medications they need, the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) has been allowing pharmacies to override the early refill edit by using the NCPDP Submission Clarification Code=13 for the adjudication of pharmacy claims. This code indicates that an override is needed based on an emergency/disaster situation recognized by the payer. DVHA is retrospectively monitoring claims using this submission clarification code to ensure it is being used appropriately. Upon review, it was determined that in some situations the SCC=13 was utilized for controlled substances for reasons unrelated to the PHE. In addition, the Governor has signed into law H.960 ([Act 140-Section 9-Page 28](#)) which requires insurers to allow members to continue receiving early refills for chronic maintenance medications as needed through July 2021. This law specifically excludes controlled substances. Therefore, **effective 7/24/20**, DVHA will no longer allow the use of SCC=13 for controlled substances and pharmacies must call the Help Desk for an override.

The use of SCC=13 will continue to override a Reject 79 (Refill too soon) on any prescription for a non-scheduled medication for which refills are allowed. The submission clarification code is intended for use during the PHE only when medically necessary. Claims are subject to recoupment if it is used improperly.

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 pharmacy benefits programs.