



Vermont Health Access Pharmacy Benefit Management Program *Pharmacy Updates and Clarifications*

VScript Cost Sharing Discontinued

In December you were notified that as of January 1, 2004 co-payments for beneficiaries in VHAP, VHAP-Pharmacy, VScript, and VScript Expanded were discontinued. Considerable confusion has occurred with VScript and VScript Expanded. Note that both VScript and VScript Expanded only cover maintenance drugs and VScript Expanded only covers those maintenance drugs where the manufacturer has a rebate agreement with the State of Vermont. When a drug is not covered in either program because it is not a maintenance drug or in VScript Expanded because there is no rebate agreement, beneficiaries may have coverage through the Healthy Vermonters' Program. Healthy Vermonters, though, is access to drugs at the Medicaid rate.

If a claim reports a beneficiary as eligible for one of our programs with a co-payment of more than \$3, it is Healthy Vermonter coverage for VScript beneficiaries.

The attached list has been created to identify the labeler code of manufacturers currently participating in the VScript Expanded rebate program. This list will be maintained on the Providers Services and Claims Processing Link on OVHA's website at <http://www.path.state.vt.us/districts/ovha/ovha5.htm>.

When the co-payment is more than \$3 and the first five (5) digits of the NDC are the same as one on the labeler code list, the drug is considered a non-maintenance drug. If a beneficiary is concerned about the cost, he/she might want to check with the prescriber to determine if another drug might meet the need while being covered by VScript. If the first five digits are not on this list, the manufacturer does not have a rebate agreement. The beneficiary may want to check with the prescriber for an alternative prescription. In the case of a generic product, you may want to determine if you stock the same generic from a participating manufacturer that could be substituted or you may want to refer the beneficiary to another pharmacy for an alternative.

Medical School Prescriber Numbers

The Drug Utilization Board and Office of Vermont Health Access have been working with physicians, pharmacies, and hospitals to track prescribing practices. In this effort EDS has issued individual provider numbers to the residents, fellows, and interns at Fletcher Allen and Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospitals. Effective February 1, 2004 the general resident numbers for those hospitals will no longer be accepted. In the meantime, as you process claims you will be messaged to remind you of this change.

Enclosed is a current list of these "House Staff" resident numbers. To aid with identification, the Fletcher Allen numbers start with the letter "F" and the Dartmouth/Hitchcock numbers start with a "D". Note that these numbers are only used when prescribed in the hospital location. If the prescriber also practices in the community, he/she will use his/her regular Medicaid number. Both the House Staff List and the Active Provider List will be available through the Downloads/Manuals link at www.VTMedicaid.com. If you are aware of a resident not on the House Staff List contact jean.gadue@eds.com.

Pharmacy Program Premium Implementation

Enclosed is a packet of information regarding premium implementation. Included is information about which beneficiaries are affected and how, activities related to implementing these premiums, and materials you can use for posting in your stores. If you have questions about these materials contact Janice Van Dyke by email at Vandykja@fhsc.com or phone at 802-747-9012.