



State of Vermont  
Agency of Human Services  
280 State Drive, Center Building  
Waterbury, VT 05671-1000

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# Global Commitment Register

August 31, 2023

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GCR 23-053  
PROPOSED

## **Pharmacy Blood Pressure Monitors**

### **Policy Summary:**

The Vermont Medicaid program proposes to cover blood pressure monitors obtained through pharmacy providers. Currently, members can only obtain blood pressure monitors from enrolled durable medical equipment (DME) providers. This change will allow access to blood pressure monitors at Vermont Medicaid enrolled pharmacies in Vermont.

Pharmacists can order and dispense blood pressure monitors to Medicaid members, when medically necessary. The clinical criteria for medical necessity at a pharmacy will be the same as the DME coverage criteria, see clinical coverage criteria linked below.

The Department of Vermont Health Access will use the following price calculation for blood pressure monitors when Vermont Medicaid is the primary payer. Payment will be reimbursed at the lower of the following:

- a. The National Drug Average Acquisition Cost (NADAC) + Professional Dispensing Fee;
- b. The Wholesale Acquisition Cost (WAC) + 0% + Professional Dispensing Fee;
- c. The State Maximum Allowable Cost (SMAC) + Professional Dispensing Fee;
- d. Federal Upper Limit (FUL) + PDF
- e. AWP-19% + Professional Dispensing Fee;
- f. Submitted Ingredient Cost + Professional Dispensing Fee;
- g. The provider's Usual and Customary (U&C) charges; or
- h. The Gross Amount Due (GAD)

A Professional Dispensing Fee of \$11.13 will apply. This methodology ensures that blood pressure monitors are reimbursed at no more than the DME payment amount.

### **Effective Date:**

September 22, 2023

### **Authority/Legal Basis:**

[Medicaid State Plan](#)

This change is being done through Global Commitment to Health waiver authority, where DVHA may establish rates with providers on an individual or class basis without regard to the rates currently set forth in the approved State Plan.

[Global Commitment to Health Waiver](#): Waiver authority #5 [Section 1902(a)(13), 1902(a)(30)]; Special Term and Condition #6.8.

**Population Affected:**

All Medicaid

**Fiscal Impact:**

The estimated gross annualized budget impact is \$36,000.

**Public Comment Period:**

August 31, 2023 – September 30, 2023

Send comments to:

Medicaid Policy Unit  
280 State Drive, Center Building  
Waterbury, VT 05671-1000

Or submit via e-mail to [AHS.MedicaidPolicy@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.MedicaidPolicy@vermont.gov).

To be added to the GCR email list, send an email to [AHS.MedicaidPolicy@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.MedicaidPolicy@vermont.gov).

**Additional Information:**

The draft Global Commitment Amended State Plan page provides additional details on the proposed changes; copies of the draft page can be requested from local Department for Children and Families (DCF) offices or from DVHA at (802) 355-8843, or can be found on [Agency of Human Services website](#).

The Department of Vermont Health Access Medical Criteria- Blood Pressure Monitor Set-Up: Automatic Blood Pressure Monitor: [Blood Pressure Monitor coverage criteria](#)

[Department of Vermont Health Access Pharmacy Benefit Management Program Pharmacy Provider Manual](#)