



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

Global Commitment Register

January 23, 2024

GCR 23-144
PROPOSED

VPharm Coverage Rule Update

Policy Summary:

The Agency of Human Services (AHS) has filed the following proposed rule with the Office of the Secretary of State (SOS):

5450 VPharm Coverage (AMENDMENT)

- Amended to reflect the expansion of drug coverage under VPharm 2 and VPharm 3 effective and implemented July 1, 2022 (see [GCR 22-046](#) for more information).
- Amendments were also made to improve clarity and to be consistent with the Health Care Administrative Rule on Prescribed Drugs and current practices.

VPharm is a State pharmaceutical assistance program that provides supplemental drug coverage to Medicare beneficiaries who are enrolled in Medicare drug plans and have household income at or below 225% of the federal poverty level (FPL). The VPharm rules establish eligibility, enrollment, and coverage for the VPharm program.

Effective Date:

The proposed rule was filed with the Secretary of State on January 19, 2024. The rule will not become effective until the administrative rulemaking process is complete.

Authority/Legal Basis:

Adoption and rulemaking: 3 V.S.A. § 801(b)(11); 33 V.S.A. § 2081(a)

Population Affected:

VPharm beneficiaries

Fiscal Impact:

The estimated gross annualized budget impact is \$24,397.

Public Comment Period:

The public comment period is open through March 13, 2024.

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.

Public Hearing Date and Virtual Location:

March 6, 2024 at 3:00 pm

This public hearing will be **virtual** via Microsoft Teams. Click on the link below to join or call the number below and enter the conference ID to connect.

Microsoft Teams meeting

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This meeting will be recorded. This recording and all paper and electronic copies of materials presented or shared on the screen will be subject to Vermont's Public Records Act, 1 V.S.A. §§ 315 et seq., and will be made available to the general public upon request. Participants are responsible for ensuring that no confidential or proprietary information is presented or discussed in the meeting and associated materials. This recording may not be deleted or destroyed except as provided under record retention schedule of the Department of Vermont Health Access.

Additional Information:

The [VPharm proposed rule is available here](#), including an annotated and non-annotated version.

The Office of the Secretary of State references the proposed rule on its website as follows:

- VPharm Coverage – Number 24P003

The proposed rule postings can be viewed electronically on the [Secretary of State's proposed rules website](#).

To get more information about the [rulemaking process](#), see the website of the Office of the Secretary of State.

The [VPharm adopted rules](#) that are currently in effect are available here.

To be added to the GCR email list, send an email to AHS.MedicaidPolicy@vermont.gov.