



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

Global Commitment Register

March 31, 2020

GCR 20-032
CLARIFICATION

****COVID-19 Emergency Response****

[Please see the Department of Vermont Health Access COVID-19 site for important information](#)

Copayment and Pharmacy Changes

Policy Summary:

As part of the response to the [COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#), Vermont Medicaid is taking steps to ensure access to necessary care for Vermonters and that health care professionals can deliver care in a safe and timely way. To this end, the following changes are being temporarily instituted:

1) Copayments:

- Eliminate copayments for all medications that may be used to treat the symptoms of COVID-19.
- Eliminate all copayments for hospital outpatient services. Under current policy copayments do not apply to inpatient services.

These changes ensure that no copayments will apply to COVID-19 testing, diagnosis, and treatment services.

2) Pharmacy Benefit:

- Members may request early refills of medication up to a 90-day supply, as needed.
- The day supply limit for Suboxone, Buprenorphine, and Buprenorphine/Naloxone prescriptions has been extended to up to 30 days.
- Existing prior authorizations will be extended an additional 30 – 90 days, as necessary.
- For pharmacies, the 90-day supply requirement for select medications can be overridden to allow pharmacies to better manage their inventory and avoid any drug shortages.
- Pharmacists are not 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.

Please see “Additional Information” below for more details on the above changes.

Effective Date:

March 1, 2020, lasting for the duration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

Authority/Legal Basis:

[Medicaid State Plan](#)

[Global Commitment to Health Waiver](#): Waiver authority #5 [Section 1902(a)(13), 1902(a)(30)];
Special Term and Condition #29.

[COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)

Population Affected:

All Medicaid

Additional Information:

[COVID-19 Information: Pharmacy Information in Response to COVID-19](#)

[COVID-19 Information: Vermont Medicaid Waives Hospital Outpatient Copayments](#)

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