

Q: What is Vermont Blue Rx?

A: Vermont Blue Rx is the new name of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont's pharmacy benefits management (PBM) program. Effective July 1, 2021, Vermont Blue Rx will continue to offer all the same services and benefits that members and providers have had over the years. Pharmacy claims will be administered through OptumRx®, our new PBM administrator.

Q: Why is Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont launching Vermont Blue Rx?

A: Vermont Blue Rx offers a more integrated experience for our members and helps control the costs of pharmaceutical benefits through OptumRx's superior web platform and products. The PBM contract that Blue Cross had with our current vendor expires June 30 and this was an opportunity to align our pharmacy services with other upgrades and technology enhancements underway across the company. Vermont Blue Rx allows us to move forward with the least disruption for our members and providers.

Q: Do members need to sign up for Vermont Blue Rx?

A: No. While some services and benefits, notably home delivery and specialty medications, will require members who currently use them to register through the new portal, nearly everyone else who currently has prescription drug coverage through their Blue Cross plan will see no interruption or change.

Q: Will current prescriptions and special considerations carry over after July 1?

A: We are contacting providers and prescribers now so that all refills, orders and prior approvals will be in place for July 1. Our on-staff pharmacist, who works closely with providers within our network, is doing direct outreach to all affected prescribers starting in early April.

Q: How do I contact Optum/Vermont Blue Rx?

A: The phone numbers we currently use will remain the same after July 1. Members should contact the pharmacy number on the back of their ID cards.

Q: Will all of the drugs currently covered carry over to Vermont Blue Rx? Where do I find the formulary?

A: With very few exceptions, all medications that are currently covered under a member's plan will be covered after July 1. For those exceptions, we are notifying members of the need to make a change and working with providers to ensure that all changes are complete in time for the deadline.

There are two formularies for Vermont Blue Rx – the BCBSVT open formulary and the National Performance Formulary (NPF).

Q: How do you identify which member has what formulary?

A: The formulary will be listed on the front of the member's ID card.

Q: Will members receive a new ID card in preparation for the launch on July 1?

A: Yes. We will be issuing a new ID card to all members with pharmacy benefits through Vermont Blue Rx in June. The new card will clearly indicate which formulary they are using and will have other updated information.

Q: How can members learn more about Vermont Blue Rx?

A: The best source of information and updates is our website, **bcbsvt.com/vermontbluerx**. As we approach July 1 the website will offer links into OptumRx's pages to provide guidance and details about taking advantage of their pharmacy programs and services.

All of the information about current services and plans will continue to be available at this web address through June 30 as well.