



Volume 12, Issue 4  
August – Oct. 2014

# Pharmacy Benefits Management- Medical Advisory Panel- VISN Pharmacist Executives E<sub>z</sub> - MINUTES

Watch for the next issue of Ez-Minutes Tuesday, Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015

See us at: <http://www.pbm.va.gov/> or <https://vaww.cmopnational.va.gov/cmop/PBM/default.aspx>.

[Click Here to Subscribe to the Ez Minutes](#)

The purpose of PBM-MAP-VPE Ez-Minutes Newsletter is to communicate with the field on items which will impact clinical practice in the VA

Please Welcome Two New National PBM Employees: Michael O. Chaffman, PharmD, BCPS National PBM Clinical Pharmacy Program Manager and Matthew Lechtenberg, PharmD, BCPS Pharmacist Program Manager (Pharmacoeconomics)

## Posting of National PBM Documents August 2014 –October 2014

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[Pharmacy-Prosthetics-Logistics and Acquisitions \(PPLA\) Workgroup](#) July.-Sept. 2014

[Next PBM Webinar: November 18<sup>th</sup> @ 3 PM](#)

Updated: [Free Naloxone Kit Initiative](#)

Updated: **3 Prior Authorization Categories on the VANF**

**Prior authorization-National (PA-N)** Refers to medications that are formulary but require prior approval at the national level before dispensing. (It is used to ensure that the medication is appropriate for each individual Veteran). *Examples: lomitapide, ziv-aflibercept*

**Prior authorization-VISN (PA-V)** Refers to medications that are formulary but require prior approval at the VISN level before dispensing.

**Prior authorization- Facility (PA-F)** Refers to medications that are formulary but require prior approval at the facility level before dispensing.

Please click [HERE](#) to read 7/25/14 DUSHOM memo on IFC (Inter-facility Consult) Implementation for National Prior Authorization Medication.

Questions on Prior Authorization Process? Send email to [VHAPBH@pmbp.org](mailto:VHAPBH@pmbp.org)  
[Prior Authorization National](#)

### Formulary Decisions

#### Added to the VA National Formulary (VANF)

- Amlodipine/Benazepril fixed-dose combination
- Calcium citrate tablets
- Escitalopram tablets
- Oral Live Ty21a Typhoid Vaccine
- Tranexamic Acid-Use in Orthopedic Surgery (Formulary status pending development of protocol/CFU in collaboration with orthopedic surgery)
- Ziv-aflibercept

#### Criteria for Use (CFU)

- [Abiraterone](#) [Updated Sept. 2014]
- [Acetylcholinesterase Inhibitors 2014 Updates](#)
- [Buprenorphine/Naloxone and Buprenorphine for Opioid Dependence for Office-Based Opioid Treatment Settings](#) [Updated includes all formulations, including buccal film]
- [Emtricitabine/rilpivirine/tenofovir](#) [Updated Sept. 2014]
- [Ibrutinib](#)
- [Linaclotide Lubiprostone](#)
- [Memantine 2014 Updates](#)
- [Pneumococcal 13 Valent Conjugate Vaccine](#) [Updated Oct. 2014]
- [Rilpivirine](#)
- [Sodium-Glucose Co-Transporter 2 \(SGLT2\)](#) [Updated to include dapagliflozin]
- [Ziv-Aflibercept Prior Authorization](#)

Please click [Here](#) for additional documents related to Prior Authorization National Consults

#### Not added to the National Formulary (VANF)

- Buprenorphine/Naloxone Buccal Film (BUNAVAIL)
- Dapagliflozin (Farxiga)
- Diclofenac Sodium 3% Gel, AB-rated generic SOLARAZE
- Doxepin Low-Dose (Silenor)
- Econazole Topical Foam
- Ibrutinib
- Methotrexate Autoinjectors (OTREXUP and RASUVO)
- Ofatumumab
- Sucroferric Oxyhydroxide
- Tacrolimus XL (Astagraf XL)

#### Guidance/Clinical Recommendations

- [BCG Shortage](#)
- [Insomnia Management Updates and Nonpharmacological VA Resources](#)

#### Recommendations for Use (RFU)

- [Naloxone Kits, Recommendations for Use \(Rev Sep 2014\)](#) – the word “prioritization” was changed to “identification”

#### Removed from the National Formulary (VANF)

- Boceprevir
- Telaprevir

#### Drug Monograph

- [Dapagliflozin \(Farxiga\)](#)
- [Doxepin Low-Dose \(Silenor\)](#)
- [Ibrutinib](#) [Updated Aug. 2014]
- [Ofatumumab](#) [Updated Aug. 2014]
- [Ulipristal Acetate \(ella\) Drug Monograph](#)
- [Sucroferric Oxyhydroxide](#)

#### Abbreviated Review

- [Buprenorphine / Naloxone Buccal Film \(BUNAVAIL\)](#)
- [Econazole Topical Foam](#)
- [Tacrolimus XL \(Astagraf XL\)](#)
- [Tranexamic Acid-Use in Orthopedic Surgery](#)

#### Patient and Provider Letters [InTRANet only]

- [Hydrocodone Combinations C-II - Patient Letter](#)
- [Hydrocodone Combinations C-II - Provider Letter](#)

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- The following document(s) were archived: Lubiprostone, CFU; Acetylcholinesterase Inhibitor CFU & Evidence Summary; Update; Memantine CFU & Evidence Summary; Update; Cholinesterase Inhibitor Drug Class Review; Boceprevir & Telaprevir CFU; coformulated fixed dose product elvitegravir/cobicistat/tenofovir/emtricitabine CFU; Antiretroviral Regimens in HIV-infected Treatment-naïve Veterans Recommendations for Use; Montelukast CFU; Buprenorphine Sublingual CFU Sep 2014; Naloxone OEND RFU Sep 2014; Checkbox format of RFU of Newer Gram-Positives Agents
- [Tramadol C-IV Patient Letter for MHV](#) is posted to the PBM INTERnet site only and linked with My HealthVet (MHV). Online visitors to MHV can view this letter. If not logged on, one can see the tramadol alert on the [Pharmacy landing page](#).
- For HIV preexposure prophylaxis, restrict emtricitabine/tenofovir to the US Public Health Service clinical practice guidelines for PrEP

## Posting of VAMedSAFE Documents Aug 2014-OCT 2014



VA Center for Medication Safety

- [Creon Recall Due to Presence of Capsule of Incorrect Strength in Bottle](#) [October 3, 2014]
- [Digoxin in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation: Potential Harms](#) [September 30, 2014]
- [UPDATE: Niacin Study Results and Implications](#) [August 29, 2014]

### Pharmacy-Prosthetics-Logistics (PPLI)\* Workgroup

The table below depicts the various products reviewed during **July** and **Sept. 2014** meetings. The X marks which service(s) is responsible for managing the respective products. Please click [HERE](#) for previous recommendations and minutes made from earlier meetings.

	Products	Pharmacy+	Prosthetics+	Logistics+
*The PPLA workgroup was created to help clarify the responsibility for management (e.g., ordering, storing, purchasing, and/or dispensing) of those products in which it is not clear which service should provide. The workgroup is not responsible for determining formulary status, clinical merit, or appropriate use of the products reviewed.	Allowash XG Sterilized Allograph Bio Implant		X	
	Auto-injector Devices		X (outpatients)	
	BioGlue Surgical Adhesive			X
	Deflux		X	
	Disposable Pumps (filled in the hospital or specialty clinic)			X
	Distilled water for clinic use			X
	Lactose (for lactose intolerance testing)			X
	Methylene Blue	X		X
	Sitz baths		X (outpatients)	X (inpatient or clinic use)
	Washable nursing pads	X (outpatient)		
Zio-Patch (alternative to Holter monitor)			X	

+ Contingent upon approval from VISN or local Clinical Products Review Committee (CPRC). Implementation of these recommendations should be coordinated between services at local sites to ensure a smooth transition if recommendations lead to a change in responsible service. If you have any questions related to this announcement, please contact the responsible local service (Pharmacy, Prosthetics, or Logistics) for more detailed information.

### Free Naloxone Kit Initiative

VA is actively engaged in promoting safe and effective practices in the management of pain. Partnering with Veterans, VA is focused on exploring all options to manage chronic pain. In an effort to prevent fatal and non-fatal opioid overdoses, VA is offering opioid overdose education and naloxone (kit) distribution (OEND) to at risk Veterans. To make these kits accessible to Veterans in need of them, as of August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) deployed the Free-to-Facilities Naloxone Kit Initiative allowing naloxone kits to be provided at no cost to facilities (standard Veteran co-payment rules apply to the kits). The initiative has the potential to provide up to 28,000 kits to VA patients. For additional information if needed, please contact your VISN Pharmacist Executive (VPE).

**UPDATE:** As of October 31, 2014, the VA Consolidated Mail Out Pharmacy (CMOP) has dispensed 4902 Naloxone Kits and there have been 11 reported opioid overdose reversals. There are 4500 kits remaining and sufficient supplies have been secured to make an additional 3240 kits. There are no maximum order quantities for medical centers placing orders with CMOP. Sites can now order as many kits as are needed to support local dispensing. Funding from PBM has been made available to cover the cost of CMOP prepared naloxone rescue kits. Order naloxone rescue kits from CMOP for local use. [Naloxone Rescue Kits Ordering Page](#)

Resources and technical assistance for OEND implementation is available at the VA National OEND SharePoint Site:

<https://vaww.portal2.va.gov/sites/mentalhealth/OEND/default.aspx>

CLICK to Read the Informational Letter: [IMPLEMENTATION OF OPIOID OVERDOSE EDUCATION AND NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION \(OEND\) TO REDUCE RISK OF OPIOID-RELATED DEATH](#)

Listen to the taped October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014 PBM Webinar on Naloxone Kit [HERE](#). Faculty: Drs. Elizabeth Oliva, Francine Goodman, and Robert Sproul.



**NEXT PBM Webinar: November 18, 2014 @ 3 PM**

November PBM Webinar will either be a repeat of Oct. Webinar (Naloxone Kit) with accreditation for those that missed it... or Concomitant Use of BZDs with Opioids with Dr. Sproul!

Look for details on [PBM Education SharePoint](#) in the near future.

<http://va-eerc-ees.adobeconnect.com/pbm-monthly-webinars/>

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