

PROVIDER ALERT

Alert #: PA 2014-03
Issued: March 24, 2014
To: ACCESS Agencies and Home Health Agencies
Subject: Authorization of Automated Medication Dispensers for the Purpose of Dispensing Medication.

Dear Access Agency (AA) or Home Health Provider (HHP),

This alert serves as notification of the process for obtaining authorization for automated medication dispensers. As previously stated in CTDSSMAP Policy Transmittal PB 2013-76, personal automated medication dispensers are programmable, locked medication storage devices that automatically dispense a dose of medication at predetermined times.

Effective December 1, 2013, home health providers who want to make this valuable service available to members who are medically stable and who would benefit from the support of an automated medication dispenser may request a prior authorization. Automated medication dispensers are considered an extension of home health skilled nursing services and the administration of medication; those services require prior authorization. Home health providers will follow existing guidelines to determine if the authorization will need to be authorized through ValueOptions for behavioral health purposes or CHN for medical purposes.

The initial authorization period for an automated medication dispenser will be for one month, one unit. Authorizations will need to be requested by phone, and will include diagnosis, frequency of the medication box fill, and a statement of medical necessity/need for service. *Additional authorization for filling medication dispensers should not be required as home health agencies can provide up to two skilled nursing visits per week without authorization under the standard benefit inquiry.*

The concurrent authorization(s) will be for up to six months.

If the automated medication dispenser fails to dispense medication effectively, a skilled nursing visit for the purpose of administering medication may be requested by the home health agency to assure the member's safety and compliance with medication. If this situation occurs, the home health service provider should contact Value Options to request modification of the prior authorization.

If you have any questions, please contact the CT BHP Provider Relations Department at 1-877-552-8247.

Provider Relations
Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership