

## VPHARM 2 and 3 Maintenance Medication Proposal

The HCA and UVMMC have worked together to identify a fix for a current problem that impacts very low income older or disabled Vermonters who have high prescription drug costs.

Current language limits the coverage in VPHarm 2, 3 to maintenance medication and diabetic supplies. With a PA you can get most drugs classified as maintenance but that takes a lot of administrative work. In addition consumers often have to pay for the first month at the regular Part D co-payment which can be really hard with very expensive cancer or MS drugs.

This proposal would help everyone get the same lower co-payments. And ease an administrative burden on both DVHA and providers.

## 33 V.S.A. § 2073(a)

The supplemental coverage under subsection (c) of this section shall provide only the same pharmaceutical coverage as the Medicaid program to enrolled individuals whose income is not greater than <u>225+50</u> percent of the federal poverty guidelines. and only coverage for maintenance drugs for enrolled individuals whose income is greater than <u>150</u> percent and no greater than <u>225</u> percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

Michael Fisher Chief Health Care Advocate Office of the Health Care Advocat mfisher@vtlegalaid.org