



Date: February 11, 2019  
To: Senator Lyons, Chair and Members of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee  
From: Sara Teachout, Director of Government, Public and Media Relations, BCBSVT  
Re: S.43 Prior Authorization for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)

### **MAT Prior Authorization**

BCBSVT does not have prior authorization for clinical entry into MAT programs. BCBSVT has quantity limits for some MAT prescriptions to ensure patient safety.

If the Legislature would like to prohibit prior authorization for MAT prescriptions in statute, BCBSVT suggests adding the language below to ensure that prescription dosage levels and quantities continue to protect patient safety.

BCBSVT, MVP, and VMS are in agreement with the suggested changes below:

Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 4754 is added to read:

§ 4754. PROHIBITION ON PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

A health insurance plan shall not require prior authorization for medication-assisted treatment, *within FDA dosing recommendations.*

### **MAT Medications and Drug Formulary**

The first section of the proposed legislation (Sec. 1. 8 V.S.A. § 4089b (c)(4)) requires that all MAT medications be included in the first tier of the plan's prescription drug formulary. BCBSVT manages medications through a formulary to encourage patients and providers to choose the lowest cost versions of MAT medications and to help prevent abuse, misuse and diversion of these medications. BCBSVT wants to retain the ability to differentiate between preferential versions of these medications using the drug formulary.

BCBSVT, MVP, and VMS are in agreement with the suggested changes below:

Section 1(c)(4) *ensure that at least one medication from each drug class* ~~place medications~~ approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of substance use disorder, *is available* on the lowest cost-sharing tier of the plan's prescription drug formulary.