

- New member ID cards will arrive in December. **Please use this new card starting January 1, 2023.**



October 2022

Thank you for being a valued member of Vermont Blue Advantage. As we look forward to 2023, we wanted to let you know we are transitioning to a new Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM) as of January 1, 2023. **Please read this letter carefully as not all plans offered by the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System (VSTRS) have Part D prescription drug coverage.** Our new Pharmacy Benefit Manager will advance our commitment to providing members with convenient and affordable access to prescription medications through a robust retail and home delivery pharmacy network. This transition also allows for a consistent pharmacy management experience for both the active and retiree community. As a result of this change, we will be reissuing member ID cards in December. This letter will give you the information you need to help you through this transition.

New member ID card

All members enrolled will receive a new Vermont Blue Advantage ID card in December. Keep your new ID card in a safe place and begin using your new ID card on January 1, 2023.

Please find your plan name noted below and follow the instructions accordingly. If you don't know the plan you are enrolled in, please refer to your current ID card for your Group Number.

| Comprehensive with Part D Prescription Drug (Group Number: 40724) <u>or</u> JY with Part D Prescription Drug (Group Number: 40725) | VSTRS 65 Medical Only (Group Number: 40726) |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use your new card at your provider's office and at your pharmacy. • Your prescription drug coverage may be the part of your Vermont Blue Advantage plan that you use most often. That's why we're making improvements to your prescription drug plan starting January 1, 2023. • This change will help us improve member experience, while also continuing to provide you access to the medication you need through a nationwide pharmacy network. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use your new card at your provider's office and only for Part B drugs obtained through the pharmacy. • The VSTRS 65 Medical Only plan does not include Part D Medicare prescription drug coverage and cannot be paired with an individual Part D prescription drug plan. <p>The remainder of this letter is NOT applicable to the VSTRS 65 Medical Only plan.</p> <p>If you have questions, please call the Customer Service number on the back of your ID card.</p> |

Members enrolled in the Comprehensive or JY Plan with Part D Prescription Drug Coverage can expect:

- a pharmacy program focused on the needs of seniors
- all active prior approvals and step therapy exceptions transferred to the new Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM)
- diabetic medications and supplies to continue to be covered with no member cost share
- no changes in your annual out-of-pocket cost of \$600 at the pharmacy.

New mail order pharmacy

If you currently receive any of your medication through Express Scripts® mail order, you will receive communications beginning in November with details about Optum Rx® Home Delivery and the actions you need to take to continue your home delivery benefit for January 1, 2023.

Update to your online member portal

The pharmacy section in your member portal, www.vermontblueadvantage.com/VSTRS will have a new look starting January 1, 2023. Your portal will continue to show information about your medications, out-of-pocket costs, and previous prescriptions. Through your member portal you will also be able to reference your plan’s drug formulary, compare drug prices, find in-network pharmacy locations, and enroll in Optum Rx® Home Delivery.

There will be minor changes to our pharmacy network and drug formulary, affecting a very small number of VSTRS’ members. Throughout November and December, we will be outreaching directly to VSTRS’ members who will experience a change. If you are one of the few to receive a letter, please follow the instructions to prevent disruption. To learn more about your 2023 pharmacy coverage visit www.vermontblueadvantage.com/VSTRS, where you can review the network of pharmacies, your drug formulary, and a frequently asked questions resource.

If you have questions, call Customer Service at the number on the back of your member ID card from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday Eastern time, with weekend hours October 1st through March 31st. TTY users, call **711**.

Thank you for being a member of Vermont Blue Advantage. We look forward to serving you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas Petroff D.O., F.A.C.O.O.G

Chief Medical Officer

Vermont Blue Advantage

Optum Rx® is an independent company providing home-delivery pharmacy and other pharmacy benefit management services to Vermont Blue Advantage members.

Express Scripts® is an independent company providing home-delivery pharmacy and other pharmacy benefit management services to Vermont Blue Advantage members.