

October 2026

CMO Corner: Important Changes to Global Maternity Care Coding and Billing

Dear Colleagues,

The American Medical Association has adopted substantial revisions that will replace the current global maternity care and delivery codes with new CPT[®] codes.

Starting January 1, 2027, these code changes affect how maternity care services are reported and include the introduction of new labor management codes and the deletion of several longstanding maternity package codes.

We are here to help support you and your practice with these changes and will continue to keep you informed as we learn more and further update our claims processing system, payment policies, and provider handbook.

Regards,

Dr. Tom Weigel
Chief Medical Officer

[Read more](#)

Important Updates to Policies, Provider Handbook, and Preventive Guide

Starting December 1, 2026, updates to our medical and payment policies, provider handbook, and preventive guide go into effect. Please take a moment to review these updates, as they may impact your practice and patients.

[Payment Policy Changes](#)[Preventive Guide Updates](#)[Medical Policy Changes](#)[Provider Handbook Updates](#)

Adaptive Maintenance Reminder

Our quarterly adaptive maintenance email was sent on September 15 with new and revised codes effective October 1, 2026. Check your email or visit our [Provider News & Updates](#) webpage to view the notification.

Pharmacy Updates

Stay informed to ensure your patients' prescriptions are appropriate and timely.

New Generics and Formulary Additions for October 1, 2026

- New Tier 1 generics are available for Xeljanz and Xeljanz XR
- Breztri aerosphere inhaler is added as a Tier 2 medication with a quantity limit, but no prior authorization

January 1, 2027 Formulary Changes

Formulary changes occur on January 1 and July 1 of each year. Patients and providers will receive individualized letters in October about any changes.

- For most drugs where there is an available generic, this will be preferred, and the brand will be excluded. Examples include: Atrovent HFA, Farxiga, Januvia, Janumet, Lumigan, Motegrity, Revlimid, Saxenda, and Viibryd.
- Quantity limits will be added for diabetic test strips: 100 strips per 30 days without insulin use; or 300 strips per 30 days with insulin use.

[See the full list](#)

Medical Drug Changes for January 1, 2027

Changes for Infliximab (Remicade) products:

- Avsola (Q5121) will remain preferred and will not require prior authorization
- Renflexis (Q5104) will be preferred and will not require prior authorization
- Inflectra (Q5103) will become nonpreferred and will require prior authorization.
 - Note: Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont (Blue Cross VT) members taking Inflectra will receive a letter notifying them of this change and providing them with guidance on next steps to ensure no gap in treatment.

Avsola and Renflexis are biosimilars of infliximab (Remicade), so patients can switch to these if previously prescribed a different infliximab product.

Review [Current Drug Policies](#) and [Medication Coverage](#)

Questions? Reach out to our Clinical Pharmacist, Amy Stoll, PharmD at stolla@bcbsvt.com or (802) 371-3657 to discuss drug coverage or clinical questions.

Free Cultural Health Training for Your Practice

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health has free virtual continuing education programs available to help healthcare professionals provide more inclusive care.

Here are a few benefits of participating in cultural health training:

- **See Better Patient Outcomes:** Culturally informed care increases treatment success and patient satisfaction.
- **Reduce Disparities and Risk:** Unconscious bias training builds providers' capacity to address cultural barriers to health and improves access to care for people who speak or sign languages other than English.
- **Meet Standards:** Many regional networks and insurance panels require ongoing equity education.

[Learn more](#)

Fourth Quarter 2026 Provider Directory Validation

The fourth quarter Provider Directory Validation will be released in early October. Providers and practices who do not complete the validation within the specified timeframe (as defined in the directory validation email) will be removed from our online directory.

Instructions to complete the process are located on the [Enrollment and Credentialing area of our website](#).

If you have questions, please call (802) 371-3745, option 2 or email CAA@bcbsvt.com.

Keep Your Contact Information Current

We frequently send important communications (like this newsletter!) by email, so it is critical to make sure that we have your current email address on file.

If you need to make a change, you can reach out to providerfiles@bcbsvt.com with your new contact information and billing NPI number.

In-Network Laboratories

As outlined in our [Use of Non-Network Providers Payment Policy](#), Blue Cross VT contracted providers are expected to direct members to use in-network providers when arranging care.

If you do not have in-office lab draw services, you can use the independent in-network lab draw stations listed below. Independent labs are lower cost alternatives that can offer extended hours and patient convenience. [See a full list of Independent Laboratories contracted with Blue Cross VT.](#)

[Labcorp](#)

16 Degrandpre Way
Plattsburg, NY
(518) 510-3747

[Labcorp](#)

164 High Street
Greenfield, MA
(413) 517-8055

[Labcorp](#)

368 Dorset Street
South Burlington, VT
(802) 532-5642

[Quest Diagnostics](#)

1 Wall Street
Claremont, NH
(603) 558-7124

[Quest Diagnostics](#)

11 Common Street
Rutland, VT
(802) 774-8341

Vermont Blue Advantage (VBA) Operations Ending

Claims for services rendered to VBA members in 2025 must be submitted prior to December 31, 2026.

- Claims, including corrected claims, and medical records can be faxed to (800) 479-8973.
- Claim denial appeals can be faxed to (800) 479-8938.

For VBA's mailing address and other non-medical claim submission information, please refer to the [Contact Us page](#) or contact VBA Provider Services at (844) 839-5122, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., EST., with any questions. The VBA Provider Services line will be open through December 31, 2026.

The VBA provider portal will be accessible through January 31, 2027. We recommend that you download Explanation of Payments (EOPs) or any other documents you may need from the portal before then.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont, 445 Industrial Lane, Berlin, Vermont 05602, USA

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