



MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Representative Janet Ancel, Co-Chair, Health Reform Oversight Committee  
Senator Tim Ashe, Co-Chair, Health Reform Oversight Committee

**CC:** Hal Cohen, Secretary, Agency of Human Services

**FROM:** Steven Costantino, Commissioner, Department of Vermont Health Access

**DATE:** August 20, 2015

**RE:** Pharmacy Best Practices and Cost Control Program Annual Report

Pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 2001(c), the annual report for the Pharmacy Best Practices and Cost Control Program is due to the Health Reform Oversight Committee by August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015. This will be the first annual report, as this is a new legislative requirement for the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) this year.

DVHA continues to work diligently with its new Pharmacy Benefit Manager, Goold Health Systems (GHS), to collect and analyze the necessary data for the report. Required to be included in the report is comprehensive data on drug utilization, clinical and cost management initiatives, net cost data, and drug trend data. GHS began working with DVHA at the beginning of this year and has yet to generate a report like this for Vermont, therefore, DVHA has had to work closely with GHS to develop new data tools and processes to ensure the validity of the data, and as a result has not had adequate time to analyze the information needed for inclusion.

In an effort to ensure that the report contains comprehensive and quality information that is useful to the legislature, DVHA is requesting an extension to October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Thank you for your consideration.