Dear Provider:

Thank you for becoming a participating provider with Virginia Premier Elite Plus. Attached is the 2017 Virginia Premier Elite Plus Provider Manual with the information you need to answer questions related to pre-authorizations, claims, appeals and grievances, credentialing/re-credentialing, quality and utilization management programs, interdisciplinary care teams (ICT), plans of care (ICP), health risk assessments (HRAs) and compliance.

In this manual we refer to various Exhibits. These exhibits are available in printable version on our website, at www.vapremier.com.

Exhibit A OB Authorization Form  
Exhibit B Practitioner Golden Globe  
Exhibit C Questions to Ask Your Doctor  
Exhibit D 20 Tips to Prevent Medical Errors  
Exhibit E Reconsideration Claim Form

To request a hard copy of the manual or to receive additional provider training, please contact your Provider Services Representative. Updates and revisions to the provider manual are communicated through inserts, website announcements and provider mailings. Should you have questions concerning the manual, please contact your Provider Services Representative at the numbers listed below:

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<tr>
<td>Central/Northern Virginia</td>
<td>800 727-7536 press 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roanoke</td>
<td>888 338-4579 press 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tidewater</td>
<td>800 828-7989 press 6</td>
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Thank you,

Virginia Premier Elite Plus Network Development Department
# Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME..................................................................................................................09

OUR MISSION..................................................................................................................................................09

OUR VISION..................................................................................................................................................10

HOW TO REACH US...................................................................................................................................11

  Interpreter Services ..................................................................................................................................13

MANAGED LONG TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS.................................................................................13

WHAT ARE MLTSS MEMBERS..................................................................................................................12

VIRGINIA PREMIER ELITE PLUS SERVICE REGIONS.................................................................13

  Transportation Services .........................................................................................................................17

ID CARDS AND ELIGIBILITY.....................................................................................................................17

  New Member Information ......................................................................................................................18

  Eligibility Verification .............................................................................................................................18

  Member Identification Card ....................................................................................................................18

ID CARD SAMPLE.....................................................................................................................................18

  Visit Procedures .....................................................................................................................................20

  Co-payments and Co-insurance ..............................................................................................................20

  Enrollment Broker ..................................................................................................................................20

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS..................................................................................................................19

  Role of the Primary Care Physician ........................................................................................................20

  Availability ..............................................................................................................................................21

  Nurse Advice Line .................................................................................................................................21

  PCP Assignment ....................................................................................................................................22

    MEMBER PANELS ..................................................................................................................................21

  Member/Provider Incompatibility ............................................................................................................22

    At Member’s Request: .............................................................................................................................23

    At the PCP’s Request: ............................................................................................................................23

  Change in Member Status .......................................................................................................................23

  Immunizations .........................................................................................................................................24

MEDICAL MANAGEMENT..........................................................................................................................24

  Utilization Management Program ..........................................................................................................24

  Referrals...................................................................................................................................................24

  Out-of-Plan Referrals ...............................................................................................................................26

  Pre-Authorization...................................................................................................................................26

    Authorization Decision Time Frames .....................................................................................................27

    Standard Authorization Decisions .........................................................................................................27
Substance Abuse Day Treatment (H0047) ............................................................................. 45
Substance Abuse Day Treatment (H0015) ............................................................................. 45
Substance Abuse Intensive Outpatient Treatment (H2016) .................................................... 45
Outpatient Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (no authorization is required)
  Peer Support Specialist ................................................................................................ 46
Inpatient Mental Health Services and Inpatient Substance Abuse Services
Temporary Detention Orders (TDO) (no authorization is required)
Free-standing Psychiatric Facility Admissions ........................................................................ 47

LONG TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS ........................................................................... 47

LTSS providers include: .......................................................................................................... 48
LTSS Authorizations ............................................................................................................... 49
Elderly or Disabled with Consumer Direction Waiver (EDCD) Agency Directed Care (AD) .... 49
Consumer Directed Care (CD) ............................................................................................. 50
Respite Services ..................................................................................................................... 51
Respite Care Follow-Up Services ............................................................................................ 51
Adult Day Health Care ........................................................................................................... 52
Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) ..................................................................... 52
Medication Monitoring .......................................................................................................... 52
Technology-Assisted Waiver .................................................................................................. 52
Intermediate or Custodial Nursing Facility Care ..................................................................... 53

PHARMACY SERVICES ...................................................................................................... 53

Pharmacy Benefits .................................................................................................................. 54
Pharmacy Network .................................................................................................................. 54
Specialty Pharmacy Benefits ................................................................................................. 54
Non-Covered Drugs ................................................................................................................ 55
Over-the-Counter Drugs ........................................................................................................ 56
IUD Distribution ...................................................................................................................... 56
Emergency Supply .................................................................................................................. 56
Pharmacy Prior Authorization Guidelines ............................................................................... 57
How to Contact Virginia Premier Elite Plus to request a Coverage Determination (Prior Authorization): .................................................................................................................................. 58
What if The request is Denied? ............................................................................................... 58
Pharmacy Addiction and Recovery Treatment Services (ARTS) .............................................. 59
Pharmacy Patient Utilization Management and Safety (PUMS) Program .............................. 60

ADDITIONAL ANCILLARY SERVICES ................................................................................. 60

Physical and Occupational Therapy ........................................................................................ 61
Inpatient Rehab Services .......................................................................................................... 61
Audiology and Speech Pathology Services ............................................................................. 61
Vision Services ....................................................................................................................... 61
Dental Services ....................................................................................................................... 62
Home Health Services ............................................................................................................. 62
Durable Medical Equipment (DME), Prosthetic Devices and Supplies .................................... 62
Nutrition Services .................................................................................................................. 62
WIC (Women, Infants and Children) ....................................................................................... 63
GENERAL LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS................................................................. 62
  Non-Covered Services.......................................................................................... 63
  Carved Out Services ......................................................................................... 63
  Exclusions from Virginia Premier Elite Plus Enrollment .................................. 64
  Non-Participating Providers............................................................................... 63

MEDICAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS............................................................... 64
  Medical Outreach .............................................................................................. 65
  Disease Management ......................................................................................... 65
  Care Management .............................................................................................. 66
  Preventive Health and Wellness Programs....................................................... 66

QUALITY PROGRAM DESCRIPTION..................................................................... 66
  Quality Program Description ............................................................................ 68
  Accessibility Standards ..................................................................................... 69
  Quality of Care Concerns ................................................................................ 69
  Practitioners Golden Globe Award (PGA) ....................................................... 72
  Questions to Ask Your Physician .................................................................... 72
  20 Tips to Prevent Medical Errors: ................................................................. 72
  Prenatal Care ..................................................................................................... 73
  Access to Care .................................................................................................. 73
  Bereavement Program ...................................................................................... 74

MODEL OF CARE (MOC).................................................................................... 73
  Care Coordinator Overview ............................................................................. 74

PROVIDER REIMBURSEMENT AND CLAIMS....................................................... 74
  Claim Filing Guidelines .................................................................................... 75
  Electronic Filing Clearinghouses ..................................................................... 76
  Coordination of Benefits (COB) ..................................................................... 77
  Clean Claim Submission .................................................................................. 78
  Primary Care Reimbursement ....................................................................... 78
  Primary Care Fee for Service ........................................................................ 78
  Encounter Reporting ....................................................................................... 78
  Panel Report ..................................................................................................... 78
  Recoupment/Recovery Policy ......................................................................... 78
  Member Hold Harmless Policy ...................................................................... 79
  Denied Claims/Reconsiderations ................................................................... 79

FILING OF SPECIFIC CLAIM TYPES.................................................................. 79
  Inpatient Rounding .......................................................................................... 80
  Global OB Method ........................................................................................... 80
  Preventive E&M Services ............................................................................... 80
  Injectables ......................................................................................................... 80
  Unlisted Procedure Codes ................................................................................ 80
Modifiers ................................................................................................................................. 80
Collection of Charges from Third Parties ............................................................................. 80
Reimbursement of Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners ........................................... 81
DME Individual Consideration Request Submission ............................................................... 81
  Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) ........................................................................... 81
Patient Pay ................................................................................................................................ 81

MEMBER RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS ..............................................................................82
  Supplemental Member Rights ............................................................................................. 83
  Member Responsibilities ...................................................................................................... 85
  Advance Directives (Patient Self-determination) ................................................................. 85
  Grievance and Appeals Procedures .................................................................................... 85
  Appeals and Grievances Issues ........................................................................................... 87
  Filing an Appeal ................................................................................................................... 88
  Expedited Appeal (Only Urgent Requests on Behalf of Member) ......................................... 88
  Standard Appeal .................................................................................................................. 89
  Filing a grievance ................................................................................................................ 89
  State Fair Hearing Process ................................................................................................. 90

PROVIDER PARTICIPATION INFORMATION ......................................................................91
  General Guidelines ............................................................................................................ 91
  Provider Availability .......................................................................................................... 92
  Credentialing and Re-credentialing Program Description ................................................... 92
  Credentialing Committee Structure & Activities ............................................................... 93
  Practitioners Credentialed and/or Re-credentialed ............................................................ 93
  Process and Requirements ................................................................................................. 95
  Primary Source Verification ............................................................................................... 95
  Annual Reviews .................................................................................................................. 97
  Request for a Practitioner's Professional Qualifications .................................................... 97
  Provider Sanctions ............................................................................................................. 98
  Provider Availability: Access and After-Hours Standards ................................................ 98
  Wait Time ............................................................................................................................ 99
  Missed Appointments ........................................................................................................ 99
  Medical Record Keeping Policies ....................................................................................... 100

MEDICAL RECORDS KEEPING REQUIREMENTS ................................................................100
  Retention and Transfer of Records .................................................................................... 101
  Office Site Reviews ........................................................................................................... 102
  Waiver audits ..................................................................................................................... 102

COMPLIANCE AND PROGRAM INTEGRITY ..........................................................................103
  Corporate Compliance and Integrity Plan ......................................................................... 103
  Standards of Professional Conduct ................................................................................... 103
  Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) ................................104
  Uses and Disclosures of PHI ............................................................................................ 106
  Patients’ Rights Regarding Medical Information about Them: ........................................ 107
**INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

Virginia Premier Health Plan, Inc. (Virginia Premier) is pleased to welcome you to its participating provider network. At Virginia Premier, our mission is to improve the health care status of the Virginia Premier Elite Plus populations in the Commonwealth of Virginia. We believe these underserved populations are entitled to the same quality health care as commercially insured populations, but require a focused approach that is specifically designed to meet the needs of these unique populations.

With offices across the state, we are better able to help our providers and members.

---

**OUR MISSION**

Virginia Premier is a Medicaid plan in Virginia. We also run a Dual Eligible Special Needs Program (DSNP), which is a Medicare plan.

We are owned by the Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center, making us part of the VCU Health brand. We do our best to offer health coverage that’s affordable, and to get doctors and nurses to areas that don’t have many medical workers. Today, we serve more than 194,000 members in Virginia.

As a Managed Care Organization (MCO), we work to lower costs and improve quality to make sure our members get the care they need and can afford.
OUR VISION

Virginia Premier reviews the latest evidence to figure out what medical care will keep our members healthy. This means we:

- Talk to our doctors and our members to learn which actions get the best results
- Try new ways to get health care to our members (for example, our Medical Home in Roanoke), and
- Partner with VCU Health as they conduct medical research and teach the next generation of doctors and nurses
- We’ve put what we’ve learned into practice in three areas of focus:
  - Prevention: promoting the health of our members, and keeping them from getting sick in the first place
  - Early intervention: addressing health problems right away, while they’re still small
  - Chronic disease management: guiding members who have conditions like hypertension or diabetes, and showing them how to reduce the problems these conditions can cause in everyday life

Thanks for joining us, and feel free to reach us using the contact information below.
## HOW TO REACH US

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Physical Address</th>
<th>Mailing Address</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Office / Central Virginia</td>
<td>600 East Broad St Suite 400 Richmond, VA 23219-1800</td>
<td>PO Box 5307 Richmond, VA 23220-0307</td>
<td>800-727-7536 804-819-5151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roanoke</td>
<td>5060 Valley View Blvd. NW Roanoke, VA 24012</td>
<td>PO Box 1751 Roanoke, VA 24008</td>
<td>888-338-4579 540-344-8838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest (Bristol)</td>
<td>105 Village Circle Bristol, VA 24201</td>
<td>105 Village Circle Bristol, VA 24201</td>
<td>866-285-8963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tidewater</td>
<td>825 Greenbrier Circle Suite 200 Chesapeake, VA 23320</td>
<td>PO Box 62347 Virginia Beach, VA 23466-2347</td>
<td>800-828-7989 757-461-0064</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### General Phone Number for Virginia Premier Elite Plus
- 877-719-7358

### Referrals and Authorizations Phone Number
- 888-251-3063 or 800-727-7536 press 3

### Referrals and Outpatient Authorizations Fax Number
- 800-827-7192

### Admissions Authorizations Fax Number (other than Behavioral Health)
- 877-739-1365

### Beacon - Behavioral Health Authorizations Telephone
- 844-513-4951

### Beacon - Behavioral Health Authorizations Fax
- 888-237-3997

### Appeals and Grievances Phone Number
- 877-719-7358

### Appeals and Grievances Fax Number
- 804-649-9647

### Nurse Advice Line (24/7)
- 800-256-1982

### Provider Services
- 877-719-7358

### Member Services (8am-8pm)
- 877-719-7358

### Virginia Premier’s Eligibility Number
- 877-719-7358

### DMAS AVRS Line (Automatic Voice Response System)
- 800-884-9730

### Transportation
- 877-719-7358
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<tr>
<td>Claims Inquiries</td>
<td>877-719-7358</td>
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<td>Contracting</td>
<td>877-719-7358</td>
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<tr>
<td>Care coordinator Fax</td>
<td>877-794-7954</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDCD and Nursing Facilities Authorization Fax</td>
<td>877-739-1366</td>
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Interpreter Services
Providers seeing members whose speech is such that they cannot be understood without an interpreter or whose primary language is not spoken by the provider are required to assist the member with obtaining interpreter services.

Managed Long Term Services and Supports
Managed Long Term Services and Supports (MLTSS) is an innovative program designed to better serve individuals who are receiving Long Term Services and Supports in Virginia. The goal of the program is to improve the lives, satisfaction and health outcomes of participants by providing a seamless, one-stop system of services and supports and assisting with navigating the complex service environment. By integrating medical and social models of care, supporting seamless transitions between service settings and facilitating communication between providers, Virginia Premier Elite Plus will ensure members receive person-centered care driven by individual choice and rights.

Members enrolled in the Virginia Premier Elite Plus program will receive comprehensive, patient-centered care. Virginia Premier Elite Plus will ensure that patient-centered care can accommodate and support self-direction, while being provided to members in the least restrictive community setting and in accordance with the Member's wishes and Individualized Care Plan (ICP). Each member is assigned a Care coordinator upon enrollment who is responsible for facilitating the ICP. The ICP provides a roadmap for the patient-centered care and is developed by the Member, their caregivers, and their Interdisciplinary Care Team (ICT).

The ICT provides a variety of health professionals that collaborate with the Member to develop and implement an ICP that meets their medical, behavioral, long term services and supports, and social needs. ICTs may include physicians, physician assistants, long-term care providers, nurses, specialists, pharmacists, behavior health specialists, caregivers and/or social workers appropriate for the Member's medical diagnoses and health condition, co-morbidities, and community support needs. Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) or Long Term Care (LTC) providers play a key role in aiding the members who are living independently in their communities. LTSS providers offer a number of services and supports that help elderly individuals and/or individuals with disabilities meet their daily needs for assistance and improve the quality of their lives.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus and the ICT will ensure that all medically necessary covered benefits are provided to Members in a manner that:
• is sensitive to the Member's functional and cognitive needs, language and culture
• allows for involvement of the Member and caregivers and;
• is provided in a care setting appropriate to the Members' needs, with a preference for the home and the community.

Virginia Premier currently operates within the six (6) regions identified by the Commonwealth of Virginia. These regions are outlined on page 13-14.

**WHAT ARE MLTSS MEMBERS**

MLTSS members are:

1. Dual eligible individuals with full Medicaid and any Medicare coverage (Medicare A and/or B) who are currently excluded from the CCC program.

2. Non-dual eligible (including the Health and Acute Care Program (HAP) population enrolled in DMAS’ Medallion 3.0 program) members who receive long term services and supports (LTSS), either through an institution or through five (5) of DMAS’ home and community-based services (HCBS) waivers:
   a. Day Support for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (DS)
   b. Elderly or Disabled with Consumer-Direction (EDCD)
   c. Individual and Family Developmental Disabilities Support (DD)
   d. Intellectual Disabilities (ID)
   e. Technology Assisted (Tech)

3. Individuals who have opted-out of the CCC program will transition to the MLTSS Program beginning in August 2017

4. Individuals enrolled in the CCC program will transition to MLTSS Program in January 2018, which is after the CCC program ends

5. Remaining ABD population (non-duals and those who do not receive LTSS). The majority of this population will transition from DMAS’ Medallion 3.0 program to MLTSS on January 1, 2018.

Medicaid covered benefits shall be provided in accordance with 42 CFR 438 and with the requirements in the approved Medicaid State Plan, including any applicable State Plan amendments and §1915(c) EDCD Waiver, and in accordance with the requirements specified in DMAS’ RFP. The requirements in this manual are subject to change based on any state or federal regulatory updates. We will send out a
notification informing all Providers of the change. We will make the update to the Provider Manual during the next schedule of revisions.

**Virginia Premier Elite Plus Service Regions**

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# Roanoke/Alleghany

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# Tidewater

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<tr>
<td>Isle of Wight</td>
<td>Poquoson</td>
<td>York</td>
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</table>
Transportation Services
Virginia Premier owns and operates its own transportation service for our members. Our transportation resources will transport members to and from scheduled medical appointments with participating providers. Transportation services may also be used to take members to health education classes and to meet with their Department of Social Services (DSS) caseworker for re-certification. This service is offered to Virginia Premier Elite Plus members free of charge.

To arrange for transportation services call: 877-719-7358

To schedule transportation for an appointment, members, the member’s caregiver or providers are required to call the Virginia Premier Elite Plus Member Services Department at least 72 hours prior to their scheduled medical appointment time Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Re-occurring transportation trips are available upon request. Virginia Premier’s care coordinator will assist members in arranging transportation as identified in the Individualized Care Plan (ICP) or through the Interdisciplinary Care Team (ICT). The Member Engagement Representative will verify the member’s eligibility by asking the member a series of questions. In order to schedule transportation the Transportation staff will need the following information: the member’s name, member Identification Number (listed on the member’s card), members date of birth, pick up address, telephone number, date, time, location of the appointment, the name and the telephone number of the medical provider for the scheduled appointment, number of additional passengers (if any), level of transport required (ambulatory, wheelchair, ambulance), and any special needs or comments, i.e. member is blind, member will be carrying a portable oxygen tank.

Van transportation service is not available for same day appointments.

Members should not be referred to Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s transportation service under the following circumstances:

- Patient is in labor
- Patient has a medical emergency (i.e. seizures, chest pain, asthma or loss of consciousness)

This type of transportation will not be coordinated through Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Transportation department. Private or “911” ambulance service is available for members whose medical condition precludes the use of Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s regular van service. Transportation that requires non-emergent ambulance transfer should be coordinated with Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Transportation department.
New Member Information
Virginia Premier Elite Plus members are sent a New Member Packet that includes helpful guidelines and instructions on how to access their health benefits. This packet includes:
- Welcome Letter
- Member Handbook with details about:
  - Primary Care Physician
  - Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) providers
  - Skilled Nursing Facilities
  - Interdisciplinary Care Teams (ICT)
  - Individualized Care Plan (ICP)
  - How to make appointments
  - When the member may need a specialist
  - After hours care
  - Appropriate use of the Emergency Room
  - Summary of Benefits
  - Member Services
  - Health Education Materials
  - Transportation Information
- Summary of Benefits
- Formulary
- Multi-Language Insert
- Notice of Non-Discrimination

Virginia Premier Elite Plus members are sent the New Member Packet and Member Identification Card prior to their effective date of coverage.

Eligibility Verification
Each new member enrolled with Virginia Premier Elite Plus will receive an individual member identification card. It is important to remember that a member’s eligibility could change on a month-to-month basis. Consequently, you should verify your patient’s eligibility each time they present the identification card for services. Physician offices can verify member eligibility through the monthly PCP enrollment and panel listing, online through the Virginia Premier Elite Plus Portal or by calling Virginia Premier Elite Plus directly.

Member Identification Card
Patients should be asked to present their member ID card at each visit. Remember that possession of an ID card does not guarantee eligibility for benefits, coverage or payment. The ID card includes valuable information as displayed below.
Front of Model Member Identification Card

Virginia Premier Elite Plus

Member Name: Virginia Jones
Member ID: Secondary ID#
Medicaid ID: Medicaid ID#
Health Plan (80840): 0247726240
PCP Name: Premier Williams
PCP Phone: 555-555-5555
MLTSS-001

Coverage Effective Date: <xx/xx/xxxx>

Back of Model Member Identification Card

For urgent or emergency care, dial 911 or go to the nearest urgent/emergency facility. If you are not sure if you need emergency care, call your PCP or the 24-hour Nurse Advice line.

Member Services: 1-877-719-7358, TTY: 711
Behavioral Health Crisis: 1-844-513-4949
Nurse Advice Line: 1-800-256-1982
Smiles for Children: 1-888-912-3456
Adult Dental: 1-844-824-2015
Vision: 1-800-877-7195
Pharmacy Help Desk: Envision: 1-844-838-0711
Website: www.vapremier.com

Send Claims To: VA Premier Claims
PO Box 4369
Richmond, VA 23220

For urgent or emergency care, dial 911 or go to the nearest urgent/emergency facility.
Visit Procedures
In order to work effectively with our members and to ensure prompt and accurate Reimbursement Virginia Premier Elite Plus recommends the following procedures:

- Identify the patient’s health insurance every time a member presents for services at the time of appointment.
- Remind the patient to bring in their most recent member ID, applicable co-payment amount and medication to the appointment;
- Verify eligibility, benefits and PCP assignment in advance of services being rendered.
- Make a copy of the patient ID card for your files;
- PCP should check their member enrollment listing;
- Refer patients to in-network specialist for services. If referrals are being made to a non-participating specialist, call Virginia Premier to obtain an authorization prior to specialty services being rendered;
- Specialist should check to make sure an appropriate authorization is on file prior to rendering services (if applicable); and
- Submit claims in accordance to timely filing guidelines with correct coding and diagnosis to ensure you are reimbursed for services.

Co-payments and Coinsurance
Virginia Premier Elite Plus members have no co-payments or co-insurance

Enrollment Broker
The state has hired an outside vendor, Maximus, to process enrollments for members. The Health Plan will not be able to use agents and/or brokers to enroll members. The Health Plan will also not be able to enroll members directly.

Primary Care Physicians

Role of the Primary Care Physician
Primary Care Physicians (PCPs) in the Virginia Premier Elite Plus network include Board Certified or Board Eligible practitioners in the fields of Internal Medicine, General Practice, Family Practice and Geriatrics. Each Virginia Premier Elite Plus member chooses a PCP who assumes responsibility for the management of our member’s healthcare needs.

The Primary Care Physician is the key to managing the member’s overall health and well-being. The PCP’s role includes:

- Develop, maintain and monitor Individualized Care Plan (ICP) for the member;
- Actively participate as a member of the Interdisciplinary Care Team (ICT);
• Provide information to member regarding LTSS services;
• Maintain and provide to Virginia Premier Elite Plus, medical and other such records and information to the extent permitted by state and federal law;
• Maintain the confidentiality of member information and records;
• Freely communicate with patients about their treatment, regardless of benefit coverage limitations;
• Perform an initial health assessment for new members assigned to their panel to begin establishing the physician-patient relationship;
• Direct provision or coordination of all healthcare services for the member to include 24-hour coverage;
• Generate referrals to in-network specialist when services cannot be performed by the PCP;
• Contact Virginia Premier Elite Plus to obtain necessary prior authorization for designated services (e.g. out of network referrals, specified diagnostic tests); and
• Comply with all established Virginia Premier Elite Plus policies and procedures as documented in this provider manual.

Availability
PCP must provide coverage for their practice twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week. The PCP's office must also have a published after hours telephone number. The member must be able to reach someone after hours. A voicemail alone after hours is not acceptable.

Nurse Advice Line
The Primary Care Physician is the primary source of medical care for our members and acts as the Care coordinator for access to other sources of medical care. The PCP must provide (or arrange coverage for) 24-hour access for the purpose of rendering medical advice, determining the need for emergency or after hours services and/or for providing authorization.

To support the PCP in this important role, Virginia Premier employs the services of a professional Nurse Advice Line, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We provide the member direct access through an RN for medical triage and health questions to assist our members in determining the most appropriate level of care for their condition. The responding nurse will give self-care instructions, provide notification back to Virginia Premier’s Care coordinator, the member’s PCP, and the LTSS provider or direct the member to a physician or facility for routine, urgent or emergency care. During normal business hours, members are instructed to contact their PCP for medical advice.

The Nurse Advice Line also provides the member with Case Management Support. The nurse can provide the member with an appropriate course of action, including, but not limited to, medical advice, directing the member to an appropriate care setting, and referral to a Care coordinator, including a physician if necessary. We
ensure that if care management needs are identified for a member, the staff person facilitating the member’s issue has access to, and is familiar with, the enrollee’s Individualized Care Plan. After hours, in non-emergent situations, members may contact the Nurse Advice Line at: 800-256-1982. The same number is used for Care Management Support.

**PCP Assignment**

New members are asked to select a Primary Care Physician (PCP) at the time of enrollment. Members may select any Virginia Premier Elite Plus participating PCP whose panel is open to accepting new members. If the member does not select a PCP, Virginia Premier Elite Plus will select one on their behalf. We will consider all available information related to any prior relationship the patient may have had with a PCP, special clinical needs, language requirements, as well as geographic proximity to the provider. Virginia Premier Elite Plus will notify the member of their PCP assignment and will issue a Member Identification Card with the PCP’s name, address and phone number. The PCP will be responsible for getting the Virginia Premier Elite Plus members panel from our Web Portal at [www.vapremier.com](http://www.vapremier.com).

Members may request a change to their PCP assignment at any time. PCP’s will still receive reimbursement for services rendered to eligible Virginia Premier Elite Plus members regardless if the PCP’s name is printed on the member’s card or not.

**MEMBER PANELS**

Virginia Premier Elite Plus now offers a Web Portal for ease of the Primary Care Physicians to access a Member List of all patients paneled to that provider. Please visit [www.vapremier.com](http://www.vapremier.com). This listing provides important information and should be reviewed at least monthly by your office staff. Please continue to check eligibility through the portal as this listing does not necessarily reflect eligibility. Please refer to these resources before providing services or referring members to specialists.

**EXAMPLE OF MEMBER PANEL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medical Practice ID</th>
<th>Medical Practice Address</th>
<th>Provider Name</th>
<th>Member Name</th>
<th>Member Id</th>
<th>Member Gender</th>
<th>Member DOB</th>
<th>Member Phone#</th>
<th>Member Address</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
<th>Member Status</th>
<th>Benefit Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VPPROV</td>
<td>0 Dr Drive</td>
<td>Dr Med</td>
<td>ABC Patient</td>
<td>xxxxxxxxx</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>xx/xx/xxxx</td>
<td>(757) 000-0000</td>
<td>x Milky Way</td>
<td>10/1/2015</td>
<td>ACTIVE</td>
<td>VA PREMIE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Member/Provider Incompatibility**

Virginia Premier Elite Plus recognizes that the physician-patient relationship is a personal one and may become unsatisfactory to either party. Virginia Premier Elite Plus has established procedures that allow for the smooth and orderly transfer and re-assignment of members and PCPs.

- All member transfer requests, whether from the member or the PCP, will be reviewed by Virginia Premier Elite Plus to determine the appropriateness of the request. Member transfer requests that involve quality of care issues will be forwarded to our Medical Director for review.
• Decisions regarding member transfer requests will be made effective the 1\textsuperscript{st} day of the following month. The member, the provider and the ICT will receive written notification of PCP transfers. The notification will include the effective date of the transfer.

• The new PCP is responsible for contacting the member’s former PCP to arrange for the transfer of any medical records, ICP and to inform the ICT of the change in order to ensure continuity of care.

• Member listings will appear in the following month’s statement.

**At Member’s Request:**
Members have the right to change their PCP with or without cause. Members must contact Virginia Premier Elite Plus Member Services Department to initiate the change. Member Services staff will identify and document the reason for a Primary Care Physician change. We will monitor changes to identify possible trends to be addressed through our Quality Program.

**At the PCP’s Request:**
Primary Care Physicians have the right to request that a member be transferred to another participating PCP. Requests for member transfers may be initiated by telephone, but must also be submitted in writing to Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Provider Service’s Department and should include the reason(s) for the request. All decisions regarding such transfers shall be made and become effective as soon as administratively feasible, but in any event decisions shall be made within (60) days from the date of the request. In the event that a PCP wishes to dismiss a patient from their panel the provider is still responsible for providing that member with Primary Care Services, participating in the ICT and facilitating the ICP until the transfer to another PCP has taken place. In addition, the Primary Care Physician is required to share with the new Primary Care Physician or other provider any and all Medical Records related to the member’s care. Mail or Fax your request to:

**VIRGINIA PREMIER ELITE PLUS**
Member Services Department
P.O. Box 4466
Richmond, Virginia 23220-0307
FAX (804) 819-5187

**Change in Member Status**
Virginia Premier Elite Plus members may be dis-enrolled from Virginia Premier Elite Plus by the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) if the member no longer meets DMAS’ eligibility requirements. PCPs are responsible for notifying Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Member Services Department, Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Care coordinator and the ICT if they know of a member’s change in eligibility status.
Immunizations
Primary Care Physicians are responsible for administering appropriate immunizations to Virginia Premier Elite Plus members. Virginia Premier Elite Plus recommends administration of immunizations according to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). PCP compliance with immunization standards will be monitored through Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s provider office and medical record review.

Note: CPT codes are subject to change annually. Providers are advised to review the immunization schedule developed by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP) or go www.vdh.state.va.us.

MEDICAL MANAGEMENT

Utilization Management Program
Virginia Premier's Medical Payment Policy Committee (MPP) determines procedures that are considered investigational or are medically necessary if they meet medical criteria (including InterQual®) and those procedures requiring authorization. Practitioners and LTSS providers are urged to review our website for operational updates. These updates will be posted to our website at www.vapremier.com. Specific questions relating to the MPP can be obtained by contacting our Medical Management Department.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus is prohibited from providing incentives for denying, limiting, or discontinuing medical services for its members inclusive of practitioners and Virginia Premier Elite Plus staff. Utilization management decisions are based on appropriateness of care and service, Member’s wishes or as communicated by the caregivers and existence of coverage for the member. Virginia Premier Elite Plus does not discriminate against particular practitioners or LTSS providers that serve high-risk populations or specialize in conditions that require costly treatment. Additional information pertaining to Virginia Premier Elite Plus Utilization Management Program can be accessed at www.vapremier.com.

Referrals
Primary Care Physicians (PCPs) in the Virginia Premier Elite Plus network include Board Certified or Board Eligible practitioners in the fields of Internal Medicine, General Practice, Family Practice and Pediatrics. Each Virginia Premier Elite Plus member chooses a PCP who assumes responsibility for the management of our member’s health care needs. An Obstetrician may assume care for members during pregnancy, but generally will refer back to the PCP for health care issues unrelated to the pregnancy. If a PCP determines that a member requires the services of a specialist or other treatment that they are unable to provide, then the PCP must make a recommendation to the appropriate specialist for the services, however Virginia Premier Elite Plus does not require a referral from the PCP in order for the member to obtain specialist services. PCP shall request and ensure receipt of copies of medical records of the services provided by the specialist. PCP will evaluate the outcome of the Specialist services and coordinate further care for the Member. If a Member requires
Specialist services and a Participating Specialist is not available, PCP shall obtain authorization from Virginia Premier Elite Plus to refer to a non-participating specialist. Any approval by Virginia Premier Elite Plus for a course of treatment or referral services does not release the PCP from his/her obligation to verify member eligibility at the time covered services are rendered.

Members may be referred to an out of network specialist with prior authorization from Virginia Premier Elite Plus in the following circumstances:

- Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s contracted providers are unable to provide the specialty service required for the member’s medical care.
- Virginia Premier Elite Plus does not have a provider in the network with appropriate training or experience.
- Services are prior authorized by another HMO or Medallion prior to enrollment with Virginia Premier Elite Plus to avoid interruption of care.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tidewater</th>
<th>Virginia Premier Health: Referral &amp; Authorizations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>825 Greenbrier Circle Suite 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chesapeake, VA 23320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>888-251-3063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax</td>
<td>800-827-7192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Admissions Only: 877-739-1365</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Central Virginia/ Fredericksburg/ Western</th>
<th>Virginia Premier Health: Referral &amp; Authorizations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>600 East Broad Street, Suite 400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Richmond, Virginia 23219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>888-251-3063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax</td>
<td>800-827-7192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Admissions Only: 877-739-1365</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Roanoke / Southwest Virginia

| Address | Virginia Premier Health : Referral & Authorizations  
5060 Valley View Blvd. NW  
Roanoke, Virginia 24012 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>888-251-3063</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Fax     | 800-827-7192  
Admissions Only: 877-739-1365 |

#### Out-of-Plan Referrals

Referrals to non-participating specialists are permitted only if the required specialty service is not available through the Virginia Premier Elite Plus network and the service is pre-authorized by the Plan.

- All out-of-plan referrals must receive advance approval by the Medical Management Department representative or the Medical Director as indicated.
- The PCP should call the Medical Management department to request approval for out-of-plan services. The Medical Director will review the request if the request does not meet continuity of care guidelines or if the service can be provided in network.
- If approved, the PCP or the Medical Director will recommend the appropriate out-of-plan specialist to be utilized. The PCP will obtain an authorization number from the Medical Management Department.
- The specialist must complete the evaluation and document the findings and send a report back to the PCP. If the referral is not approved by Virginia Premier Elite Plus, the PCP will be notified and provided with alternative recommendations. The PCP has the right to appeal the denial and may discuss medical indications with the Medical Director.

When Virginia Premier Elite Plus is retrospectively notified of the use of a non-participating provider without prior authorization from the Medical Management Department, the resulting claims will be denied for payment.

#### Pre-Authorization

The PCP is responsible for providing and/or managing all health care services for the Virginia Premier Elite Plus member. However, some services also require pre-authorization from the health plan. The pre-authorization process allows Virginia Premier Elite Plus to:

- Verify the member’s eligibility
- Determine whether or not the service is a covered benefit
• Make sure that the chosen provider is in the Virginia Premier Elite Plus network
• Evaluate the medical necessity criteria for the service
• Enter the member into Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Case or Disease Management program if appropriate

To pre-authorize services, contact Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Medical Management Department at the number listed for the service area. Failure to pre-authorize services will result in denial of payment and the provider will be held responsible for the services.

Please see Community Mental Health Services for clarification of authorization requirements.

Authorization Decision Time Frames
The following timeframe for decision requirements apply to service authorization requests:

Standard Authorization Decisions
For standard authorization decisions, Virginia Premier Elite Plus shall provide the decision notice as expeditiously as the Member’s health condition requires and within State-established timeframes described in the table below, with a possible extension of up to fourteen (14) additional calendar days, if:

• The Member or the provider requests extension; or
• Virginia Premier Elite Plus justifies to the State agency upon request that the need for the additional information is in the member’s interest.

 Expedited Authorization Decisions
For cases in which a provider indicates, or Virginia Premier Elite Plus determines, that following the standard timeframe could seriously jeopardize the member’s life or health or ability to attain, maintain, or regain maximum function, Virginia Premier Elite Plus will make an expedited authorization decision and provide notice as expeditiously as the Member’s health condition requires and no later than 72 hours after receipt of the request for service.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus may extend the 72 hour turnaround timeframe by up to fourteen (14) calendar days if the member requests an extension or Virginia Premier Elite Plus justifies (to the State agency upon request) a need for additional information and how the extension is in the Member’s interest.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Authorization Decision Timeframes (See above description for extensions.)</th>
<th>Turnaround Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inpatient (Standard or Expedited)</td>
<td>1 Business Day or as expeditiously as the Member's condition requires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient/EPSDT Outpatient (Standard)</td>
<td>3 Business Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient (Expedited)</td>
<td>No later than 72 hours from receipt of request; or, as expeditiously as the Member's condition requires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTSS to include -HCBS/LSH/EPSDT/etc. (Standard)</td>
<td>5 Business Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTSS to include -HCBS/LSH/EPSDT/etc. (Expedited)</td>
<td>No later than 72 hours from receipt of request; or, as expeditiously as the Member's condition requires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Behavioral Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard UM Review (to include outpatient and CMHS)</td>
<td>3 Business Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial and Concurrent Inpatient</td>
<td>1 Business Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expedited Urgent – Pre-service Inpatient</td>
<td>3 Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expedited Urgent reviews for other urgent services</td>
<td>24 Hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Procedures Requiring Pre-Authorization
(The full listing of services can be found at www.vapremier.com Medical Management, Utilization Management)

Pre-authorization is required for services including, but not limited to, the following:

- All inpatient hospitalizations (and extensions beyond original LOS)
- All 23 hour observation admissions, excluding OB observation
- Chemotherapy
- Cosmetic Surgery (e.g. Keloid & Scar Revisions, Varicose Veins, Mammoplasty, Reduction and Augmentation)
- Durable Medical Equipment (DME)(Includes Orthotics and Prosthetics when applicable*)
- Enteral Nutrition and Total Parenteral Nutrition Only Available*
- Health Education & Training Services
- Home Health Services
- Hyperbaric Therapy
- Infusion Services
- Organ Transplant and Surgery
- Outpatient Surgical Procedures done in a Hospital/Ambulatory Surgical Setting
- Out of Network Referrals
- Pain Management (e.g. joint injection, spinal cord stimulator)
- Rehab Therapy (e.g., Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy)
- Radiological – (Non routine imaging for example: CT, CTA, MRI, MRA, Nuclear Scan, PET Scans, etc.). This is prior authorized through NIA: www.RadMD.com or (800) 642-7578
- Intensity-modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT)
- Specialty Drugs

*Age Requirements
Note: If a provider has any questions pertaining to prior authorization, please contact Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Medical Management Department or check our No Prior Authorization (NPA) list on our website prior to performing the procedure.
Hospital Admissions: Elective Admissions
All hospital admissions, 23 Hour Observations (excluding OB observation) and outpatient ambulatory surgical procedures must be pre-authorized using the following guidelines (also referred to as “pre-admission certification”).

- The admitting physician or his/her designee will notify the Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Referral Coordinator of the planned admission. If this is an emergency admission, Virginia Premier Elite Plus must be notified within 24 hours of admission, or the next business day.
- If the notification is from a specialist, the Referral Coordinator will request that the specialist make the PCP aware of the proposed elective admission and requested procedure and have it documented in the member’s ICP.
- The Referral Coordinator will verify eligibility, then obtain baseline information including:
  - Demographic profile
  - Requested admission date
  - Requested procedure date, if applicable and/or different from admission date
  - Hospital or outpatient facility
  - Admitting physician
  - Diagnosis
  - Procedure, if applicable
  - Expected length of stay (LOS)

The Referral Coordinator will request clinical information for the elective admission be sent to the Utilization Review Nurse (UR).

1. Appropriate ICD-10 codes are determined using ICD-10 referral sources Health Care Management Guidelines by Interqual®. Pre-admission criteria are utilized by the UR nurse to determine medical appropriateness of the admission.

2. If authorized, an authorization number will be given to the physician. All hospital stay extensions beyond the originally authorized length of stay will require additional review.

3. If the reported information is not consistent with Virginia Premier Elite Plus policy, the Medical Director will review the request for further consideration. If the admission is imminent, the Medical Director will make a determination within 24 hours.

4. Notification to the requesting provider will be made within 72 hours, or before the scheduled admission. This notification will be made more expediently if it is required for the member’s health condition. Hospitals not receiving pre-
authorization must contact Virginia Premier Elite Plus to verify status of approval.

Medical Management Staff Availability
Medical Management personnel are available to assist you in expediting care for your Virginia Premier Elite Plus patient. Medical Management Offices are open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily. If you call after hours or on a weekend, a confidential answering machine will receive your call. Please leave detailed information and a Virginia Premier Elite Plus representative will respond to your call on the next business day.

Admission/Concurrent Review
All inpatient hospital stays require an authorization. At the time of the review for emergency admission, Virginia Premier Elite Plus will determine if the admission was medically necessary. Pending availability of clinical data, determinations will be made within 24 hours of Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s notification with subsequent notification to providers within 24 hours of making the decision. The admission will be documented in the member’s ICP.

Concurrent or continued stay reviews are performed on all non DRG hospitalized patients and DRG admissions that exceed expected length of stay (LOS). Medical Records review will determine if the assigned LOS remains appropriate or if it should be modified given significant changes in the patient’s condition. Continued stay decisions will be communicated by telephone to the appropriate contact in the facility’s Medical Management Department and to the attending physician’s office. Letters are generated for approvals and non-certification which include instructions on submitting an appeal. The facility, attending physician and member are notified in writing of the decision within 3 business days of making the decision or sooner if this is an expedited request.

Care Management Services
As part of the concurrent review process, Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Utilization Management team will screen each patient for discharge planning and care coordination needs, and collaborate with the Regional Care Team’s Transition Coordinator to enable a smooth transfer back to the Regional Care Team. The Transition Coordinator will facilitate communication between discharging and receiving providers and/or family members to minimize the risk of readmission due to preventable causes. Once the member is settled and the new treatment plan has been successful, the responsibility for Care Coordination will return to the Regional Care Team. Providers are encouraged to engage with the Transition Coordinator and the RCT during both ad hoc and regular meetings to assess the member’s status and update the plan of care.

Continuity of Care
Virginia Premier Elite Plus will honor all existing ICPs and prior authorizations (PAs) as provided by DMAS, DMAS’ contracted managed care entities, and Medicare until the authorizations ends or 90 days from Enrollment, whichever is sooner. For EDCD Waiver Member’s, Virginia Premier Elite Plus will develop and implement the ICP no later than
the end date of any existing PA. If the existing PA end-date is within thirty (30) days of Enrollment into the health plan, Virginia Premier Elite Plus may elect to automatically extend the authorization (unchanged) for up to thirty (30) days from the date of Enrollment to allow time for the HRA and ICP to be developed.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus will allow Members to maintain their current providers (including out-of-network providers) for 90 days from Enrollment. Virginia Premier Elite Plus will also allow Member’s to maintain their preauthorized services as provided from DMAS or DMAS’ contracted managed care entities for the duration of the PA or for the 90 days from Enrollment, whichever is sooner, except for individuals residing in a NF at the date of Enrollment into the health plan. Individuals in NFs at time of enrollment may remain in the NF as long as they continue to meet DMAS criteria for nursing home care, unless they or their families prefer to move to a different NF or return to the community.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus will transfer PA, assessment, ICP, and other pertinent information necessary to assure continuity of care to another MMP for Members that choose to transfer. The information will be provided no later than three (3) calendar days from receipt of the notice of disenrollment to the Virginia Premier and no later than the effective date of transfer in the method and format specified by DMAS.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus will ensure that Member’s in NFs who wish to move to the community have the appropriate services and resources in place to support their safe transition back to the community. The care coordinator will collaborate with the member, caregiver/family, ICT, facility, and transition provider to coordinate all aspects of the member’s transition. If appropriate, Member’s will be given the choice of receiving transitional service and coordination through the plan or referral to the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Program. If the individual enrolls in the MFP Program, he/she will be dis-enrolled from Virginia Premier Elite Plus.

If, as a result of the development of the ICP or the HRA, Virginia Premier Elite Plus proposes modifications to the Member’s prior authorized services after the continuity of care period, Virginia Premier Elite Plus will provide written notification to the Member about an opportunity to Appeal the proposed modifications.

Non-Certification/Denial of Certification
Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Medical Management staff will make a referral to the Medical Director whenever the admission review or concurrent review information fails to meet medical necessity guidelines. The Medical Director will make a decision to approve or deny the certification. If denied, the decision of the Medical Director will be communicated by telephone and by letter, citing the reason for the decision (lack of medical necessity, lack of information, failure to notify). The decision will also be documented in the Member’s ICP. A provider and/or member may request a copy of the criteria that was used to make a non-certification decision. The Medical Director will discuss the denial with the attending physician should there be any questions.

For currently certified admissions, notification of a non-certification decision will be given on the day prior to or the same day of the non-certified day. The physician, hospital utilization review department and any other hospital department requesting notification
will be called with the name of the member, date of non-certification. In addition, non-certification letters will be sent to the physician, member and the hospital-admitting/UR department, along with instructions on submitting an appeal.

**Inpatient Denials**
If an attending physician continues to hospitalize a member who does not meet Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s medical necessity criteria, all claims for the hospital and physician will be denied from that day forward.

**Note:** The member cannot be billed for covered services that Virginia Premier Elite Plus has denied.

If the patient/family member insists upon continued hospitalization (even though both the attending physician and Virginia Premier Elite Plus agree that the stay is no longer medically necessary) or if the services are non-covered benefits, the member will be financially responsible for those services if notified prior to receiving services and gives consent. The Virginia Premier Elite Plus Utilization Management nurse will notify the member or the member’s family of the determination of non-certification. The hospital must notify the member of their financial responsibility.

**Medical Necessity Appeals**
The Medical Necessity Appeals process is a mechanism through which a member, member’s representative, attending physician/provider or facility can request a review of a decision by Virginia Premier Elite Plus. Appeals will be considered if received within thirty (30) days of the decision.

**NOTE:** A decision made by Virginia Premier Elite Plus may be due to the failure to demonstrate medical necessity for admissions, continued length of stays, services, procedures, and diagnostic tests. Medical necessity is based on Virginia Premier Elite Plus approved medical policy, Interqual© criteria, and state and national clinical guidelines. A provider and/or member may request a copy of the criteria that was used to make a non-certification decision.

**Medical Necessity Criteria**
Virginia Premier Elite Plus uses McKesson Interqual© criteria, nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines/standards and approved Virginia Premier Elite Plus peer-review guidelines for determinations of medical necessity for medical and behavioral health services. The following factors are considered when applying criteria to a given individual:

- Age
- Co-morbidities
- Complications
- Progress of treatment
- Psychosocial situation
• Home environment, if applicable
• Benefit coverage

Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s criteria is available for review by practitioners, members and facilities at the following office locations:

**Virginia Premier Elite Plus Medical Management:**

600 E Broad Street    5060 Valley View
Suite 400     Boulevard NW
Richmond, VA 23219   Roanoke, VA 24012
1-855-338-6467    1-888-338-4579

Upon request, individual criteria used in a medical necessity determination will be mailed to a member, practitioner and/or facility.

There are two types of Medical Necessity Appeals, Expedited and Standard.

**Expedited Medical Necessity Appeal**
Expedited appeals may be requested when a non-certification decision is made by Virginia Premier Elite Plus prior to, or during the course of treatment. If the member or physician/provider believes that Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s decision is not acceptable, a request to appeal should be faxed to Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Medical Management Department. Once the appeal is received, Virginia Premier Elite Plus will select a physician of the same or related specialty to review the case. This physician will be responsible for returning a decision within seventy-two (72) hours of receiving the information required for the expedited appeal. A member may appeal to Virginia Premier Elite Plus and/or DMAS.

**Standard Medical Necessity Appeal**
Standard appeals are generally made after the services have been rendered. Copies of medical or hospital records may be required before the process can begin. All documentation should be faxed or mailed to Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Medical Management Department. Once the related information is received, the appeal will be reviewed by a physician of the same or related specialty, and a decision rendered in thirty (30) days. A member may appeal to Virginia Premier Elite Plus and/or DMAS.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus will provide in writing, clinical rationale for the non-certification decision to the member, physician/provider, or the facility.

All medical information and appeals for reconsideration of prior authorization/notification or appeals of medical necessity should be sent to:
Providers must exhaust appeals with Virginia Premier Elite Plus before appealing to Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS).

Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)
Appeals Division
600 E Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 371-8488

**Emergency Services/Urgently Needed Care/ESRD Out of the Service Area**

In the case of sudden onset of an unexpected medical condition and time permits, Virginia Premier Elite Plus members are instructed to contact their PCP for medical advice. If the member is unable to reach their PCP or the situation arises after business hours, members are instructed to call the Nurse Advice Line at 1-800-256-1982. The PCP or Nurse Advice Line staff will assess the member’s medical condition and instruct the member on how to obtain appropriate medical services.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus members may utilize participating Urgent Care Centers for unexpected medical conditions and no referral is required.

If the member presents to the ER without authorization from their PCP or Nurse Advice Line, and the situation does not appear to pose an immediate threat to the member’s health, emergency room staff should encourage the member to contact the member’s PCP.

Remember: In the event of a true emergency, Virginia Premier Elite Plus members should seek immediate medical treatment from the nearest emergency room. Members should notify their PCP or Virginia Premier Elite Plus within 24 hours (or the next business day) of receiving services.

**Medical Services**

**Gynecology and Obstetrical Services**

All female Virginia Premier Elite Plus members have direct access to in-network OB/GYN’s for annual and routine visits and all necessary follow-up care without a referral. When a Virginia Premier Elite Plus member has selected their OB/GYN, the OB/GYN must become part of the Interdisciplinary Care Team (ICT). If the Virginia Premier Elite Plus member requires continuous follow-up care, the OB/GYN can provide such care without authorization or a referral, but should consult with the member’s PCP either before or after the care is provided. Consultations may be made by telephone. Outpatient surgical procedures or hospitalizations require pre-
authorization from Virginia Premier Elite Plus. Services can be coordinated through Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Medical Management Department for obstetric patients that require additional specialist visits. OB/GYN services include:

- Prenatal, labor and delivery, and post-partum care
- Specialty gynecological care
- Family planning services in or out of network
- Annual routine pelvic exams under the Women’s Wellness Program
- Counseling for HIV testing
- Maternal and newborn home health assessment (home health visits within 48 hours)
- Elective abortions are authorized and reimbursed through DMAS

When a pregnant member’s estimated date of delivery (EDD) is determined, the obstetrician must:

- Complete the OB Registration Form (Exhibit A) which can be accessed at www.vapremier.com.
  - This form is used to identify pregnant members early and to assist with care coordination. Virginia Premier Elite Plus seeks to partner with the provider to ensure consistent prenatal care by the member.
- Return the request form to the Medical Management Department by faxing to the number found on the form.
- OB ultrasounds and non-stress test do not require prior authorization.

OB/GYN's are responsible for coordinating services with participating hospitals and specialists for OB related care. The participating OB/GYN is responsible for notifying Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Case Management Department for assistance with prenatal care and enrollment in the Healthy Heartbeats™ program.

**Length of Stay Policy**
For routine vaginal delivery, Virginia Premier Elite Plus authorizes a length of stay of three days, or less, based on the decision of the member and their physician. Cesarean section deliveries are authorized for a five-day length of stay, or less, based upon the decision of the member and their physician.

**Post Delivery Services and Home Health**
On July 1, 1996, the Virginia legislature passed a bill that requires all plans to provide postpartum services in accordance with medical criteria as outlined in “Guidelines for Perinatal Care” prepared by American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG). These services include appropriate postpartum inpatient care including home visits for early discharges. All Virginia Premier Elite Plus postpartum patients will receive a home visit from a RN within 48 hours of discharge unless refused by the member or attending OB/GYN physician. The home visit will be documented in the ICP.
Gynecology Services: Direct Access Legislation
The Virginia Legislature passed a bill effective July 1, 1996, allowing women to self-refer to their OB/GYN physician for services related to the female reproductive system/breasts. Any Virginia Premier Elite Plus member may self-refer for the following services:

- Annual Exam and PAP smear
- Any OB/GYN Problem
- Family Planning
- Prenatal Care
- Breast Exams
- Screening Mammogram

Upon self-referral, the OB/GYN must notify Virginia Premier Elite Plus and assume an active role within the interdisciplinary care team. The OB/GYN will be responsible for communicating with the ICT and ensuring the ICP is updated accordingly.

Family Planning
Family planning services are covered benefits for Virginia Premier Elite Plus members. Family planning can be provided in or out of network, do not require prior authorization and services include the following:

- Counseling services and patient education regarding HIV, sexually transmitted infections, and risk reduction practices
- Preventive exam and treatments
- Medically necessary lab tests, including testing and counseling for HIV
- Medically approved methods, procedures, drugs, supplies and devices to prevent an unplanned pregnancy. These include the use of birth control pills, diaphragms, Depo Provera injections, IUD and Norplant implants (insertion and removal) and other contraceptive methods. (This does not include services to treat infertility or to promote fertility)
- Treatment for sexually transmitted diseases

Sterilization Services
Sterilization services (tubal ligation, contraceptive implants and vasectomy) are covered services for Virginia Premier Elite Plus members. Virginia Premier Elite Plus follows the State and Federal regulations regarding sterilization procedures. All requests for pre-authorization for sterilization procedures must have the completed “Consent to Sterilization” form attached. The patient must be 21 years of age, mentally competent and must wait a minimum of 30 days (no more than 180 days) after signing the consent form to have the procedure.

Healthy Heartbeats™
To meet the needs of routine and high-risk pregnant women, Virginia Premier implemented the Healthy Heartbeats™ Program. This nationally recognized prenatal
care program combines extensive outreach and home visits with case management, prenatal care, education classes, and support services such as transportation to improve birth outcomes. Members enrolled in Healthy Heartbeats™ are cared for by their physician and the ICT team that includes an outreach worker, a case manager, and a health educator. This team arranges for personalized in-home assessments and follow-up services that allow the plan to develop case management services tailored to the needs of each patient. Ancillary services such as nutritional counseling and peer support groups for breast-feeding mothers are also provided through a unique partnership with the Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC). Virginia Premier has also collaborated with local hospitals throughout the Richmond, Tidewater and Roanoke regions on the delivery of prenatal education classes.

To encourage participation in the program, members receive incentives for accessing prenatal care, WIC and home outreach services. After delivery, the program provides a home health nurse visit that supports new mothers in the first 48 to 72 hours after discharge. This individual reinforces many of the educational lessons taught during the prenatal period.

Eligible program participants will be identified through completed OB Registration forms submitted by the Obstetrician, pregnancy related diagnosis identified through Primary Care Physician encounters, emergency room visits, prenatal vitamin dispensing, specialty referrals to OB physicians, inpatient care reports, self-referrals, updated plans of care, ICT members and community referrals. Program goals include:

- Identifying and addressing any medical/social problems that may adversely impact the pregnancy outcome.
- Developing partnerships with providers and members to improve outcomes and compliance with the Individualized Care Plan

** Abortions **
Virginia Premier Elite Plus does not cover services for abortion. Requests for abortions where the life of the mother is endangered shall be forwarded to the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) for review to ensure compliance with Federal Medicaid rules. DMAS will be responsible for payment of abortion services meeting Federal Medicaid requirements under the fee-for service program.

** Infertility Services **
Infertility services are a non-covered benefit for Virginia Premier Elite Plus members.

** Substance Abuse Services for Obstetric Patients **
These services are available to Virginia Premier Elite Plus members and are coordinated through the ICT team and in accordance with the ICP. Virginia Premier Elite Plus will coordinate access to these services for our members.
DIAGNOSTIC TESTING: LABORATORY SERVICES

Virginia Premier Elite Plus has contracted with Lab Corporation of America (LabCorp) and Solstas Labs to provide outpatient laboratory services for our members. Participating physicians should contact LabCorp or Solstas Labs to arrange for specimen pick-up, supplies, Laboratory Request Forms, results, and general information.

Physicians may elect to draw specimens in their office for courier pick-up by LabCorp or Solstas, or they may choose to send the patient with orders to one of our lab partners draw sites.

To find the nearest LabCorp site visit www.labcorp.com
To find the nearest Solstas site visit www.solstas.com

CLIA Waived Tests
All physicians performing Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) labs must have a Certification of Waiver or a Certificate of Registration and an Identification number. Those physicians with a Certificate of Waiver are limited to providing only the types of tests permitted under the terms of the waiver. Physicians with a Certificate of Registration may perform the full range of services for which they are certified.

Pre-Operative Lab Testing
Virginia Premier Elite Plus members who are scheduled for elective surgery at a participating hospital should have their pre-operative lab work sent to LabCorp/Solstas or lab station negotiated in our contract.

If this is not possible due to time constraints of the scheduled admission, the lab work can be done by the admitting hospital. In order for these labs to be reimbursed, the hospital must call the Virginia Premier Elite Plus Medical Management department to obtain the appropriate authorization. The hospital should bill the pre-operative lab work separately from all other services and include this authorization number for payment.

Pathology Specimens
Pathology specimens obtained in the physician’s office must be sent to LabCorp or Solstas Labs for processing. If a provider deems it necessary to send a pathology specimen to a non-participating pathology lab (other than LabCorp or Solstas) then Virginia Premier Elite Plus must be notified and those services pre-authorized.

Exceptions: If Virginia Premier Elite Plus has authorized a procedure, the authorization includes all professional services associated with that procedure. Therefore, an additional authorization is not required for pathology services associated with that authorized procedure. The hospital may perform and bill for pathology services associated with the procedure.

Sperm analysis for infertility treatment is excluded since this is not a covered benefit.
**Radiology Services and Guidelines**

**Routine Radiological Studies**
Physicians may self-refer patients for routine diagnostic radiological testing. This testing must be done at a participating facility or the physician's office if certified to perform radiological testing. Routine radiological testing does not require prior authorization from Virginia Premier Elite Plus. Routine diagnostic radiological testing performed in the PCP or Specialist’s office will be billed and reimbursed fee for service.

**Outpatient Studies**
Virginia Premier partners with NIA (National Imaging Associates) to manage the outpatient imaging management services precertification process using nationally revered clinical guidelines for imaging/radiology services.

Prior authorization is required for the following outpatient radiology procedures through NIA:
- CT/CTA /CCTA
- MRI/MRA
- PET Scan
- Nuclear Cardiology

The ordering physician is responsible for obtaining authorization prior to rendering the above-listed services. To obtain authorization, the provider should go to the NIA website [www.RadMD.com](http://www.RadMD.com), or through the NIA dedicated toll-free phone number, 1-800-642-7578.

Providers rendering the services listed above should verify that the necessary authorization has been obtained by visiting [www.RadMD.com](http://www.RadMD.com), or by calling NIA at 1-800-642-7578. Failure to do so may result in nonpayment of your claim. A complete listing of CPT codes requiring preauthorization through NIA is available at [www.RadMD.com](http://www.RadMD.com).

*Emergency room, observation and inpatient imaging procedures do not require authorization.*

Any requests to perform services out of plan must receive prior authorization through Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Medical Management Department or will result in nonpayment of the claim.

**Mammography Services**
Virginia Premier Elite Plus encourages women over the age of 40 to have breast exams and yearly mammograms. Virginia Premier Elite Plus covers one baseline mammogram for women between ages 35 - 39. No referral or authorization is required for screening mammograms. Additionally, mammograms ordered as a result of breast abnormalities are covered regardless of age. These diagnostic mammograms require prior
authorization. All breast exams will be documented in the member’s ICP.

**Preventive Services**
The following preventive screening tests and examinations are covered:

- Annual Wellness Visit
- Initial Preventive Physical Examination (also known as the “Welcome to Medicare Visit”)
- Colorectal cancer screening
- Screening Pap tests
- Screening pelvic examinations
- Prostate cancer screening
- Cardiovascular disease screenings
- Diabetes screening tests
- Glaucoma screening
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) screening
- Bone mass measurements
- Ultrasound screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm.

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**
The following community mental health services will require an authorization unless noted otherwise.

**Community Mental Health Services**

In an effort to promote continued quality improvement for services provided to Virginia Premier CCC Plus members, Virginia Premier has entered into an agreement with Beacon Healthcare, Inc. to implement a behavioral health and substance abuse management program. Beacon will be providing prior authorization review for non-Community Mental Health Rehabilitation Services (non-CMHRs) services from 8/1/17 to 12/31/17 and effective 1/1/18 for all behavioral health and substance abuse services including the CMHRS service authorizations.

You can reach Beacon Healthcare at their main phone number 1-800-221-5487 for authorization requests or fax an authorization request to 1-800-370-1116. Beacon Healthcare bases all behavioral health service determinations on medical necessity/LOCC criteria accessible online at www.beaconhealthoptions.com.

Please note: Magellan of Virginia is providing authorization and management of (CMHRS) from 8/1/17 to 12/31/17. Please contact Magellan of Virginia at their toll free contact number 1-800-424-4046 for any CMHRS service authorizations during this time period.

Face-to-face provider assessments (H0032 & appropriate modifier) do not require authorization.
Crisis Intervention (H0036) (no authorization is required)
Defined as immediate behavioral health care, available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, to assist Members who are experiencing acute behavioral dysfunction requiring immediate clinical attention such as Members who are a danger to themselves or others. This service’s objective is to prevent exacerbation of a condition, to prevent injury to the consumer or others, and to provide treatment in the context of the least restrictive setting. Crisis intervention includes assessing the crisis situation, providing short-term counseling designed to stabilize the Enrollee, providing access to further immediate assessment and follow-up, and linking the Enrollee and family unit with ongoing care to prevent future crises. Crisis intervention activities may include office visits, home visits, pre-admission screenings, telephone contacts, and other client-related activities for the prevention of institutionalization.

A unit of service is 15 minutes (must provide a minimum of 15 minutes). Billing should be per episode. No authorization is required.

Note: Effective 8/1/2016, the maximum duration for Crisis Intervention has changed from 30 days to 7 days.

Crisis Stabilization (H2019) (no authorization is required)
Is provided to non-hospitalized Members experiencing an acute psychiatric crisis that may jeopardize their current community living situation. The goals are to avert hospitalization or re-hospitalization, provide normative environments with a high assurance of safety and security for crisis intervention, stabilize individuals in psychiatric crisis, and mobilize the resources of the community support system and family members and others for on-going maintenance and rehabilitation.

There is a limit of eight (8) hours a day for up to 15 consecutive days in each episode, up to 60 days annually. A billing unit is one hour.

Note: Effective 8/1/2016, the timeframe for crisis stabilization registrations changed from 1 calendar day to 1 business day.

As a reminder, only direct hours of service can be billed.

Day Treatment/Partial Hospitalization Services
Sessions of two (2) or more consecutive hours per day are provided. Sessions may be scheduled multiple times per week, to groups of individuals in a nonresidential setting. These services include the major diagnostic, medical, psychiatric, psychological, and psycho-educational treatment modalities designed for Members with serious behavioral disorders. The day treatment center could be attached to a psychiatric hospital or CSB clinic site. Services are for Members with a serious behavioral health disorder and goal is to keep them out of a psychiatric hospital.

- **Intensive Community Treatment (H0039 – treatment; H0032 modifier U9 - assessment)**
An array of behavioral health services for adults with serious emotional illness who need intensive levels of support and service in their natural environment to permit or enhance functioning in the community. Intensive Community Treatment is provided through a designated multi-disciplinary team of behavioral health professionals. It is available twenty-four (24) hours per day.

The assessment (H0032) must document the eligibility and medical necessity for the service. Each provider will be reimbursed for up to 2 assessments per member per fiscal year. A billing unit is one hour. Time may be accumulated to reach a billable unit.

- **Mental Health Skill Building Services (Previously Mental Health Support Services (H0046- treatment; H0032 modifier U8 - assessment)**

Training and supports to enable Members to achieve and maintain community stability and independence in the most appropriate, least restrictive environment. Authorization is required for Virginia Premier Elite Plus reimbursement. The member must have a prior history of qualifying mental health treatment such as a psychiatric hospitalization, residential treatment, residential crisis stabilization, PACT or ICT services, RTC-level C placement or a TDO evaluation due to mental health decompensation.

Mental Health Skill Building services may be authorized for six (6) consecutive months. All services must be direct face-to-face contacts to be reimbursed. This program shall provide the following services in order to be reimbursed by Virginia Premier Elite Plus: training in or reinforcement of functional skills and appropriate behavior related to the Enrollee’s health and safety, ADLs, and use of community resources; assistance with medication management; and monitoring health, nutrition, and physical condition. Any service provided that is strictly vocational will not be billable such as job searches or filling out applications.

Each provider will be reimbursed for up to 2 assessments per member per fiscal year. For new client’s, the provider’s service assessment must not occur prior to the Independent Clinical Assessment. Only direct face-to-face contacts and services to the member are reimbursable.

- One unit = 1 to 2.99 hours per day
- Two units = 3 to 4.99 hours per day

Time may be accumulated to reach a billable unit.

Providers must clearly document the details of the services provided for the entire amount of time billed.

There is a utilization limit of 10 units per week.
Opioid Treatment (H0020) (no authorization is required)
Services that are similar to substance abuse day treatment, but it is provided to persons with opioid dependence and who need medication to prevent withdrawal.

The unit of service is 15 minutes. Billing rates are based on type of service provider and degree/credentials of the service provider. Opioid drugs may be billed separately as a Pharmacy Point of Service claim or by using the appropriate HCPCS code. No authorization is required.

Psychosocial Rehabilitation (H2017-treatment; H0032 modifier U6-assessment)
Services for the severely behaviorally ill. Psychosocial rehabilitation is provided in sessions of two (2) or more consecutive hours per day to groups of individuals in a nonresidential setting. These services include assessment, education about the diagnosed mental illness and appropriate medications to avoid complication and relapse, opportunities to learn and use independent living skills and to enhance social and interpersonal skills within a supportive and normalizing program structure and environment. The primary interventions are rehabilitative in nature. Staff may observe medication being taken, watch and observe behaviors and note side effects of medications.

The assessment must document the eligibility and medical necessity for the service. Each provider will be reimbursed for up to 2 assessments per member per fiscal year.

For billing units of service calculated as follows:

• One unit = 2 to 3.99 hours per day
• Two units = 4 to 6.99 hours per day
• Three units = 7 + hours per day.

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (H0018)
Services are for Members with serious substance abuse problems for the purposes of improving the Member’s overall health, treating the substance abuse disorder, strengthening supportive relationships and achieving and maintaining a sober and drug-free lifestyle. The Member’s care is supervised by a Care coordinator. The Enrollee must agree to actively participate in care. Services provided are substance abuse rehabilitation, counseling, and treatment, pregnancy and fetal development education, symptom and behavior management, and personal health care training. No reimbursement for any other Community Mental Health/Mental Retardation/Substance Abuse rehabilitative services are available while the Enrollee is participating in the program.
Substance Abuse Crisis Intervention (H0050) (no authorization is required)
Substance abuse treatment services, available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days per week, to provide assistance to Members experiencing acute dysfunction related to substance use which requires immediate clinical attention. The objectives are to prevent exacerbation of a condition; and injury to the Enrollee or others; and to provide treatment in the least restrictive setting. Crisis intervention services are provided following a marked reduction in the Member’s psychiatric, adaptive, or behavioral functioning or an extreme increase in personal distress related to the use of alcohol or other substances.

A unit of service is 15 minutes of Substance Abuse Crisis Intervention. No authorization is required.

Substance Abuse Day Treatment (H0047)
Services of two (2) or more consecutive hours per day, which may be scheduled multiple times per week and provided to groups of individuals in a non-residential setting. The minimum number of service hours per week is twenty (20) hours with a maximum of thirty (30) hours per week. Substance abuse day treatment may not be provided concurrently with intensive outpatient or opioid treatment services.

The unit of service is 15 minutes. Billing rates are based on type of service provider and degree/credentials of the service provider.

Substance Abuse Day Treatment (H0015)
Comprehensive intensive services in a central location lasting two (2) or more consecutive hours per day, which may be scheduled multiple times per week for pregnant and postpartum women with serious substance abuse problems for the purposes of improving the pregnancy outcome, treating the substance abuse disorder, and achieving and maintaining a sober and drug-free lifestyle. Only behavioral health crisis intervention services or behavioral health crisis stabilization may be reimbursed for Members of day treatment services. A billing unit is equal to a minimum of two (2) hours, but less than four (4) hours.

• One unit = 2 to 3.99 hours per day
• Two units = 4 to 6.99 hours per day
• Three units = 7 + hours per day.

Substance Abuse Intensive Outpatient Treatment (H2016)
Services two (2) or more consecutive hours per day, which may be scheduled multiple times per week and provided to groups of individuals in a non-residential setting. The maximum number of service hours per week is nineteen (19) hours per week. This service should be provided to those Members who do not require the intensive level of care of inpatient, residential, or day treatment services, but require more intensive services than outpatient services. Intensive outpatient services may
not be provided concurrently with day treatment services or opioid treatment services.

The unit of service is 15 minutes. Billing rates are based degree/credentials of the service provider.

Targeted Case Management is not reimbursed through Virginia Premier Elite Plus but continues to be available through DMAS. Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Care coordinator will work closely with the CSB’s Targeted Case Manager to coordinate care and will be included in the member’s ICT.

**Outpatient Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (no authorization is required)**

Outpatient mental health and substance abuse services are available through Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s network of participating mental health providers.

Outpatient mental health and substance abuse (SA) services are provided in a practitioner’s office, mental health clinic, individual’s home, or nursing facility. Services shall be medically prescribed treatment, which is documented in an active written treatment plan designed, signed, and dated by the professionally licensed, Virginia Premier enrolled or out of network qualified provider. Mental health and substance abuse medication management requires an Individualized Care Plan. A separate plan is required for outpatient psychiatric services and substance abuse services when service authorization is requested separately. The primary diagnosis should indicate the focus of treatment. If an individual has co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, integrated treatment for both disorders is allowed with the expectation the clinician will bill for the primary presenting problem.

Each provider may only bill one psychiatric diagnostic interview examination within a 12-month period. The examination must meet medical necessity criteria. No authorization is required. Medication management does not require service authorization and is not subject to the unit limit.

The mental health services units are separate from the substance abuse treatment units. When medically necessary, there may be concurrent authorizations for mental health services and substance abuse services. For persons with co-occurring psychiatric and substance abuse conditions, providers are expected to integrate the treatment.

**Peer Support Specialist**

Peer Support Specialists should contact Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Behavioral Health Unit with clinical information to receive an initial authorization. A prior authorization is needed for out of network providers also. Should a Peer Support Specialist see a member, the Peer Support Specialist must become a participating member of the Interdisciplinary Care Team (ICT).
Inpatient Mental Health Services and Inpatient Substance Abuse Services

Inpatient mental health and substance abuse services are available through Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s network of participating providers when medically necessary. All elective admissions require prior authorization. In the event of an emergency admission, Virginia Premier Elite Plus must be notified within 24 hours or the next business day. All inpatient admissions will be documented in the member’s Individualized Care Plan (ICP).

Services provided to patients in an inpatient psychiatric or substance abuse detoxification unit will be reviewed and authorized based on the severity of the presenting symptoms. When the admission meets condition-specific criteria, certification of days may be authorized to enable a physician to evaluate the patient and develop an appropriate treatment plan. At the end of the initially approved period, the treatment plan is reviewed for intensity of service and severity of illness according to the following components:

- Diagnosis including precipitating event and patient history treatment goal(s);
- Treatment modality appropriate to diagnosis; and
- Medication and prescribed therapy including dosage levels, frequency and expected duration of treatment(s).

Following the review of the treatment plan, the UR staff will assign an appropriate length of stay.

During concurrent review, the UR staff will continually evaluate the patient’s progress toward the treatment goal(s) and his/her ability to function in a non-acute inpatient environment. Continued hospital stay will only be approved under the following conditions:

- Continued presence of behavior which justify hospital admission
- Complications resulting from medication or prescribed therapy, which require continued medical observation.

Temporary Detention Orders (TDO) (no authorization is required)

TDO hospitalizations do not require an authorization from Virginia Premier Elite Plus until after the custody hearing.

Free-standing Psychiatric Facility Admissions

Admission to a “free-standing” psychiatric facility is permitted under the following circumstances:

A physician must certify for each individual that inpatient services in a freestanding psychiatric hospital are needed. The certification must be made at the time of admission.
A physician, physician’s assistant, or nurse practitioner, acting within the scope of practice and under the supervision of a physician, must recertify for each individual that inpatient psychiatric services are needed.

Prior to admission to a freestanding psychiatric hospital or before authorization for payment, the attending physician or staff physician must make a medical evaluation of each individual’s need for care in the hospital. In addition, appropriate professional personnel must make a psychiatric and social evaluation. Each medical evaluation must include:

1. Diagnoses;
2. Summary of present medical findings;
3. Medical history;
4. Mental and physical functional capacity;
5. Prognosis; and
6. A recommendation by a physician concerning admission to the freestanding Psychiatric hospital

**LONG TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS**

Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) offer a variety of services and supports that help elderly individuals and/or individuals with disabilities meet their daily needs for assistance and improve the quality of their lives. LTSS services are provided over an extended period, predominantly in homes and communities but can also be provided in facility-based settings such as nursing facilities. LTSS services include assistance with Daily Activities of Living (ADL) which consist of bathing, dressing, and other activities of self-care as well as support for everyday tasks such as housekeeping and laundry. Referrals to the Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) team are made through the local Department of Social Services for members in the community or the hospital (inpatient) to evaluate the need for services.

The PAS team will complete the UAI, DMAS-97 and DMAS-96 to determine if the member meets nursing facility level of care criteria or EDCD enrollment. Once the PAS and member identify needed services, the member, family, caregivers or authorized representative will possibly choose the desired delivery model such as agency directed or consumer directed care for long-term support services.

**LTSS providers include:**

- Adult Day Health Care (ADHC)
- Personal Care (agency directed and consumer directed)
- Respite Care (agency directed and consumer directed)
- Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) and Medication Monitoring
- Service Facilitation
• Skilled Nursing Facilities
• Custodial Care (Nursing Facility)
• Transition Coordination/Skilled Private Duty Nursing
• Assistive Technology
• Environmental Modifications

All LTSS services should be outlined in the Plan of Care (POC) for the member. The Plan of Care is developed in conjunction with the member after the Health Risk Assessment (HRA) is completed and input from their identified ICT. The Interdisciplinary Care Team (ICT) will meet at regular intervals to review and update the ICP as the member’s status changes.

LTSS Authorizations
All LTSS services shall require prior authorization and approval of services is based on the DMAS screening tools and LOC assessment and score if applicable. The PAS team or service provider should send all screening documents (UAI, DMAS-95, DMAS-97, DMAS-96, and DMAS-225) to Virginia Premier Elite Plus within 2 business days of completion and member selection of a provider. Providers may submit the DMAS-98 form or the Outpatient Authorization Service form located on the website to request LTSS authorization. The authorization process allows Virginia Premier Elite Plus to:

- Verify the member’s eligibility.
- Determine whether or not the service is a covered benefit.
- Contact the member to review their chosen model of care delivery and agency preference if they have selected to have agency directed care or adult day health care.
- Make sure that the chosen provider is in the Virginia Premier Elite Plus network or facilitate them joining the network.
- Evaluate the medical necessity criteria for the service.
- Refer the member to Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Disease Management and/or Health Education program; if appropriate coordinate care and additional services as needed.
- Update the member’s ICP.

Elderly or Disabled with Consumer Direction Waiver (EDCD)

Agency Directed Care (AD)
Once selected, the AD personal care provider schedules an in-home comprehensive assessment with the member and family. The assessment is documented on the DMAS-99 form. To avoid duplication, Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s care coordinator will collaborate with the agency RN to attend this face-to-face assessment and incorporate information into Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s initial member face-to-face assessment. The service plan for LTSS services is developed by the agency RN with the member
and Virginia Premier Elite Plus care coordinator and is documented on the DMAS-97 A/B form. On the DMAS 97 A/B, the agency provider completes the composite ADL score section to determine the composite LOC score. All documents inclusive of additional requested services are submitted to Virginia Premier Elite Plus within 2 business days of completion. The agency may initiate care up to 40 hours based on the composite score without prior authorization from Virginia Premier Elite Plus.

The authorization given by Virginia Premier Elite Plus will indicate the approved service, level of care and hours approved. All services must be initiated within 30 days or sooner of the screening. Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s care coordinator will incorporate the DMAS 97 A/B into the member’s overall plan of care. The personal care provider will be included in the member’s ICT.

The agency RN must make a supervisory visit at least every 30 days for members with cognitive impairment(s), but no less than every 90 days for members without cognitive impairments. A reassessment of the member by the agency RN is done every 90 days and documented on the DMAS-99. This information is submitted to the Virginia Premier Elite Plus care coordinator to be incorporated in the plan of care and discussed in the ICT. The DMAS 97 A/B must be completed annually and when there is a significant change in the needs of the member. This will be done as collaboration between the agency RN and Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s care coordinator. Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s care coordinator will complete the annual level of care assessment (also known as DMAS 99 C) and send a copy to the agency for their records.

If supervision is requested, the agency will complete the DMAS-100 (request for supervision) and submit to Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s care coordinator for review and authorization.

Consumer Directed Care (CD)
Members who are enrolling in the EDCD Waiver and want to utilize the CD model of care will undergo the same screening process as those who elect agency-directed services. The PAS team will complete the UAI, DMAS- 97 and DMAS-96 to determine if the member meets the criteria for EDCD enrollment. Once the PAS and member identify needed services, the member, family, caregivers or authorized representative will choose the desired delivery model such as consumer directed care for long-term support services.

If consumer directed care is selected, the PAS must complete the DMAS-95 Addendum (DMAS-95A) and submit that to Virginia Premier Elite Plus along with the other screening tools within 2 business days of completion. If the PAS does not complete the DMAS-95A at the time of screening and Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s care manager determines that the member desires to have consumer direction, the service facilitator will complete the DMAS 95A. Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s care coordinator will contact one of its network service facilitators to schedule an in-home comprehensive assessment with the member which is documented on the DMAS-99. To avoid duplication, Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s care coordinator will collaborate with the service facilitator to attend this face-to-face
assessment and incorporate information into Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s initial member face-to-face assessment.

The service facilitator will assist the member in completing their required forms for PPL and all information associated with employing their attendant. The member will have follow up visits from the service facilitator and Virginia Premier Elite Plus at 30, 60 and 90 days after the initial assessment to monitor the member’s ability to hire and maintain attendants and monitor the plan of care and level of services that are being given. The member will have at least quarterly face-to-face visits with a reassessment every 6 months that is done by the service facilitator in collaboration with Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s care manager. The service facilitator will be part of the member’s ICT. The DMAS 97 A/B must be completed annually and when there is a significant change in the needs of the member. This will be done as collaboration between the service facilitator and Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s care coordinator. Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s care coordinator will complete the annual level of care assessment (also known as the DMAS 99 C) and send a copy to the service facilitator for their records.

**Respite Services**

Respite services can be provided in conjunction with personal care or as the sole EDCD waiver service. The member may receive skilled (only available through AD care) or unskilled respite services. The same assessment requirements outlined above for agency directed or consumer directed personal care apply to respite services. A plan of care must be developed and sent to Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s care coordinator on the DMAS 97 A/B to be incorporated in their overall plan of care. Virginia Premier Elite Plus will render an authorization within 14 business days of receiving the request for respite services. There is a maximum of 480 hours per year (July to June) for all types of respite combined.

**Respite Care Follow-Up Services**

When respite services are received on a routine basis and are provided by an agency, the minimum frequency of supervisory visits is every 30 to 90 days depending on their cognitive status. When respite care services are more episodic, a RN nurse supervisor must conduct the initial home assessment visit with the aide or LPN on or before the start of care and make a second home visit during the second respite care visit. All information must be documented and sent to Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Care coordinator within 2 business days of completing the visit. This information will be used to update the Individualized Care Plan and discussion in the member’s ICT.

If respite services are needed and the member has consumer directed personal care, the Individualized Care Plan goals, objectives and activities will be reviewed by the service facilitator annually and every six months or whenever 240 service hours have been used. All information must be documented and sent to Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Care coordinator within 2 business days of completing the visit. This information will be used to update the Individualized Care Plan and discussion in the member’s ICT.
Adult Day Health Care
Referrals to the Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) team are made to the local Department of Social Services for members in the community or the hospital (inpatient) to evaluate the need for services. The PAS team will complete the UAI, DMAS-97 and DMAS-96 to determine if the member meets nursing facility level of care criteria or EDCD enrollment. Once the PAS and member identify needed services, the member, family, caregivers or authorized representative will possibly choose the desired delivery model such as Adult Day Health Care (ADHC).

Once Virginia Premier Elite Plus contacts the member and family and assist in selecting an Adult Day Health Care provider, Virginia Premier Elite Plus will issue an authorization to the selected provider. The provider will complete the DMAS-301 (Adult Day Health Care Interdisciplinary Service Plan) and submit to Virginia Premier Elite Plus. Goal oriented progress notes are required to be documented at least every 30 days. The Virginia Premier Elite Plus care coordinator will use the information to update the overall Individualized Care Plan and collaborate with the site to be a part of the member’s ADHC Interdisciplinary Team meetings. The care coordinator will attend these meetings in person. Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s care coordinator will complete the annual DMAS 99 C.

For the purpose of calculating patient pay collection obligation, each day of ADHC is considered equivalent to 6 hours of care (regardless of actual time spent at the center).

Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)
The PERS is not a stand-alone service and the member must be receiving another EDCD service in conjunction with PERS. The DMAS-100 (Request for PERS) form is used to determine if the member meets criteria for PERS and provider of the other EDCD services can complete the form and send to Virginia Premier ElitePlus’s care coordinator for authorization of services. In addition, the care coordinator may complete this assessment as part of the Individualized Care Plan if services are warranted.

Medication Monitoring
Medication monitoring units must be physician ordered and are not considered a standalone service. In cases where medication monitoring units must be filled by the provider, the person filling the unit must be a RN, LPN or a licensed pharmacist. The units may be refilled every 14 days. This service is authorized by Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s care coordinator and must be reauthorized every 6 months.

Technology-Assisted Waiver
As with other waiver services, members must undergo the UAI assessment performed by the PAS team while the member is in the hospital, facility, or the community. Members qualify for this waiver service when:

- The provision of home and community-based care must be determined to be a medically appropriate and cost-effective alternative to facility
Individuals under the age of 21 must be determined to otherwise require acute care hospitalization and score at least 50 points on the designated assessment tool.

Individuals over 21 years of age must be eligible for adult specialized care placement prior to waiver admission.

The health, safety, welfare of the individual must be safely maintained in the home with the nurse or personal care aide are absent.

Services cannot be provided to any individuals residing outside Virginia.

Once members meet criteria for the Tech Waiver, the PAS documents must be submitted to Virginia Premier Elite Plus (UAI, DMAS-96, DMAS-97, DMAS-225). The Care Coordinator will collaborate with the member and their caregiver to select an appropriate provider (if they do not already have one) to coordinate additional care needs. The provider must submit the authorization request for waiver services to Virginia Premier along with supporting documentation such as DMAS-108 (adult), DMAS-109 (child), 485, DMAS-116, DMAS-97T, DMAS-102, DMAS-103, DMAS-259, and Tech Waiver and EPSDT assessment. The services available under the Tech Waiver include:

- Assistive Technology
- Environmental Modifications
- Personal Care (Adults Only)
- Skilled Private Duty Nursing
- Skilled Private Duty Nursing-Respite
- Transition Services

Once all appropriate documentation is received, the care coordinator will integrate elements from the service plan into the member’s ICP. The service provider will also become part of the member’s ICT and participate in regular meetings regarding the member’s care and services. Providers may submit authorization requests to Virginia Premier Elite Plus on the DMAS-98 or Outpatient authorization request form. The care coordinator will also collaborate with the provider to perform the required DMAS 99 C.

Intermediate or Custodial Nursing Facility Care

The PAS or inpatient facility completes the UAI, DMAS 97 and DMAS 96 and submits to Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s care coordinator. Once received, the CPEP’s care coordinator will authorize admission to the nursing facility for care. Services will require reauthorization at least every 12 months.

The Virginia Premier Elite Plus care coordinator will perform a face-to-face assessment with the member incorporating the information from the MDS. A plan of care will be developed in collaboration with the nursing facility and the care coordinator will be a part of the team.
of the facility’s care planning/MDS meetings for the member. Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s care coordinator will actively assist the member and family in conjunction with the nursing facility to prepare members for return to the community if the member has a desire to return to the community (as indicated in MDS Section Q) or no longer meets criteria for nursing facility care.

**PHARMACY SERVICES**

**Pharmacy Benefits**
Virginia Premier Elite Plus covered prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs are administered through Envision Pharmaceutical Services (Envision Rx), www.envisionrx.com. All prescriptions and OTC drugs must be filled at a participating pharmacy, unless a medical or FEMA declared emergency or an out-of-area situation exists. Prescriptions or OTC drugs that require special authorization procedures shall have a response within 24 hours, in most circumstances.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus members who are eligible for Medicare will have a [Medicaid Wrap formulary](#), which will only consist of certain Non-Part D covered and OTC drugs. All other members will be entitled to drugs outlined in the [Common Core Formulary](#); the Common Core Formulary will include certain prescription and OTC drugs taken from the Medicaid Fee-for-Service and Virginia Premier’s formulary. There will be no cost share or copayment for drugs covered under the Core or Medicaid Wrap formulary.

The formularies can be downloaded on Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s website at [www.vapremier.com](http://www.vapremier.com). For pharmacy and prescription related questions, please call Envision Rx at <1-855-872-0005> (TTY users call <711>), <24 hours a day, 7 days a week>.

Note: Virginia Premier Elite Plus requires that generic drugs which are indicated in the formulary as bio-equivalent and therapeutically equivalent be prescribed. The final decision regarding medications prescribed to an individual member is left to the physician's professional judgement.

**Pharmacy Network**
In most cases, Virginia Premier Elite Plus will pay for prescriptions only if they are filled at the plan’s network pharmacies. To find a network pharmacy, visit our website at [www.vapremier.com](http://www.vapremier.com). Our network includes:

- Retail Pharmacies;
- Specialty Pharmacies

**Specialty Pharmacy Benefits**
Specialty drugs are high-cost injectable, infused, oral, or inhaled medications that are typically prescribed to treat complex chronic or long-term conditions that have few or no alternative therapies, such as cancer, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, multiple sclerosis, and others.
Members, who take specialty drugs, require customized clinical monitoring and support to reduce their health risk and potentially serious side effects.

Most Specialty drugs require prior authorization whether self-administered, administered in the office or by a home health service. Authorizations are based on medical necessity, which is determined by the drug policy, evidence-based medicine, regulations, contracts and medical judgment.

Once prior authorization is obtained, providers will be informed about the available options on the specialty drugs, such as: using the preferred Specialty vendor, using office stock or, when appropriate, home health nursing services. All Specialty pharmacy order forms can be located on the Virginia Premier Elite Plus website.

**Non-Covered Drugs**
There are specific drug classes that, by law, are not covered under the Virginia Premier Elite Plus program. The drug classes not covered for members include:

1. Drugs used for Anorexia or Weight Gain;
2. Drugs used to promote fertility;
3. Agents used for cosmetic purposes or hair growth;
4. Agents used for the treatment of sexual or erectile dysfunction;
5. DESI (Drug Efficacy Study Implementation) drugs considered by the FDA to be less than effective;
6. Drugs which have been recalled;
7. Experimental drugs or non-FDA-approved drugs; and
8. Drugs marketed by a manufacturer who does not participate in the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program
**Over-the-Counter Drugs**
Virginia Premier Elite Plus covers the following over-the-counter drugs and supplies with a prescription from a participating provider.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covered Over the Counter Medications by Therapy Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antacids</td>
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<tr>
<td>Antidiarrheal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antifungals – tropical and vaginal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Antihistamine/Decongestant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Antihistamines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Antiulcer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calcium supplements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cough and Cold products</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decongestants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferrous Sulfate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glucosamine/Chondroitin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ketotifen</td>
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**IUD Distribution**
To obtain IUDs or implantable contraceptive devices for **Virginia Premier Elite Plus non-dua**l (not eligible for Medicare Part D) members you may use the order forms found on our website www.vapremier.com or contact the preferred specialty vendor as directed below:

1. Mirena, Skyla contact CVS/ Caremark (866) 638-8321
2. Nexplanon, contact CVS/ Caremark (866) 638-8321
3. Paraguard, contact ICS Distribution at 1-877-Paragard

Providers may also choose to utilize office stock and may bill Virginia Premier Elite Plus directly for the device as well as for the insertion of the device using the appropriate CPT codes. Should you have questions regarding this change please contact your local Provider Services Representative or Utilization Review at 1-877-719-7358.

**Emergency Supply**
The member may also be eligible to receive up-to a 72 hour supply of a drug, until a pre-authorization decision can be made. For example, the member may be eligible to receive a temporary supply of a drug if he/she experiences a change in his/her “level of care” (i.e., if he/she has returned home from a stay in the hospital with a prescription for
a drug that is not on the formulary).

There are other situations where the member may be entitled to receive a temporary supply of a prescription drug. Virginia Premier Elite Plus will grant a temporary supply on a case-by-case basis, to ensure continuity of care. If you have questions about whether a member is entitled to a temporary supply of a drug in a particular situation, please call Envision Rx at 1-855-872-0005 (TTY: 711), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Pharmacy Prior Authorization Guidelines**

Providers must use generic drugs whenever possible when prescribing medication for our members. In the event a drug has restrictions and no substitution can be made, a prior authorization process will need to be requested to ensure that the member is able to continue to get coverage for the prescription drug(s) he/she needs.

**If the drug is not on the formulary (non-formulary):**

The member is recommended to speak to his/her provider about the option to either change the drug he/she is currently taking or request a prior authorization. The provider can help determine if there is a different drug on the formulary equally effective for the member’s condition or if the non-formulary drug is medically necessary for the member to continue. In that case, the provider and/or member will need to ask Virginia Premier Elite Plus for a non-formulary exception (prior authorization) to receive coverage for the drug.

**If the drug is subject to a utilization management requirement:** A team of prescribers and pharmacists developed these special requirements to help our members use drugs safely and in a cost effective manner. The provider can help if the prescription drug is subject to quantity limits, step therapy or prior authorization. A team of doctors and pharmacists to help our members use drugs safely and in a cost effective manner develops these special requirements.

**Prior Authorization.** For certain medications, the provider is required to provide Virginia Premier Elite Plus with information so we can confirm the medication’s medical necessity. The prior authorization criteria is based on current medical findings, manufacturer labeling information, and Food and Drug Administration guidelines. Prior authorization applies to medications that are more likely than others to be taken incorrectly, used inappropriately, or taken in amounts that exceed recommendations for dosage or length of treatment.

**Step Therapy.** To help make the use of prescription drugs safer and more affordable, Virginia Premier Elite Plus uses a Step Therapy program. A Step Therapy program is the process by which certain prescription drugs must be tried before the originally prescribed medication will be covered. Medications are grouped into two categories: Step 1 medications are recommended first, and usually generic; Step 2 medications are mostly brand name medications and only approved if a front-line medication (Step 1) does not work. The provider can request an exception if it is medically necessary to use the originally prescribed medication.
**Quantity Limit.** To help make prescription drugs more affordable, there might be limits on the amount of the drug (number of pills, etc.) that is covered during a particular time period. Quantity limits applies to medications that are more likely to be taken in amounts that exceed recommendations for dosage or length of treatment.

If the member and the provider believe these restrictions should not apply, the member and/or the provider can make the request for a quantity limit exception by contacting Envision Rx. We will need the doctor to give us a written statement with the medical reasons for the formulary exception requesting.

**How to Contact Virginia Premier Elite Plus to request a Coverage Determination (Prior Authorization):**
The member and/or the provider can make the request for a formulary exception by contacting Envision Rx. A prior authorization may be requested either:

- Orally by calling 1-855-872-0005 (TTY: 711); OR
- Electronically by visiting our website [www.vapremier.com](http://www.vapremier.com), CoverMyMeds, or SureScripts; OR
- Written by either faxing 1-866-250-5178 or mailing to:
  
  Envision Pharmaceutical Services, LLC  
  Attn: Coverage Determinations Dept.  
  2181 East Aurora Road  
  Twinsburg, OH 44087

Once we receive the physician's statement, we must notify the member of our decision no later than 24 hours in most circumstances. The request will be expedited if we determine, or the provider informs us, that the member’s life, health, or ability to regain maximum function may be seriously jeopardized by waiting for a standard request.

**What if the request is denied?**
If the request is denied, the member has the right to appeal by asking for a review of our decision. The provider or the member must request this appeal within 30 calendar days from the date of our decision. The member or provider may request the appeal to be standard or expedited.

**Standard Requests.** Once we receive a written consent to start the appeals process, we must notify the member of our decision no later than 30-days for a standard request.

**Expedited Requests.** Once we receive a written or oral consent to start the appeals process, we must notify the member of our decision no later than 72 hours for an expedited request.

**An appeal can be requested either:**
- Orally by calling 1-800-727-7536 extension 66728 (TTY: 711), Monday through
Friday from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm; OR
- Electronically by visiting our website www.vapremier.com; OR
- Written by either faxing 1-804-649-9647 or mailing to:
  Virginia Premier Health Plan, Inc.
  Attn: Grievance & Appeals
  PO Box 5244
  Richmond, VA 23220

Pharmacy Addiction and Recovery Treatment Services (ARTS)
As part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) opioid prescribing guidelines and DMAS initiatives to deter inappropriate use of narcotic medications, Virginia Premier Elite Plus formulary will include non-opioid pharmacologic therapies for pain without utilization management edits (i.e. Step Therapy or Prior Authorization).

Based on the CDC Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain, OPIOIDS ARE NOT RECOMMENDED AS FIRST-LINE TREATMENT FOR CHRONIC PAIN. For additional information please see: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/rr6501e1.htm.

For a list of preferred non-opioid pharmacologic therapies visit our website.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus will cover naloxone injection and nasal spray for all members without restrictions.

In addition, Virginia Premier Elite Plus will require prior authorizations on methadone, short-acting and long-acting opioids, and buprenorphine containing products.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus will utilize and follow the DMAS approved service authorizations and criteria:

All **short-acting Opioids** are limited to two (2) 14-day supply per fill and not to exceed 28 days in 60 days. The quantity limit will apply to each short-acting opioid drug exceeding a 14 day supply per fill or exceeding a 28 day supply in 60 days. Authorization will be required for approval.

All **long-acting opioids** are indicated for patients with chronic, moderate to severe pain who require daily, around-the-clock, chronic opioid treatment.

Patients with a history of substance use disorder should be considered for **Buprenorphine** analgesic treatment with either topical patch or buccal film (authorization required). These products have a ceiling effect with less risk of respiratory depression than others.
The FDA has issued a black box warning on **concurrent utilization of opioids and benzodiazepines**. A prior authorization will be required for concurrent utilization of opioids and benzodiazepines with greater than or equal to 14 day supply. For more information about the black box warning visit the FDA website at [www.fda.gov/drugs/drugsafety/ucm518473.htm](http://www.fda.gov/drugs/drugsafety/ucm518473.htm).

**Pharmacy Patient Utilization Management and Safety (PUMS) Program**
Virginia Premier has a Patient Utilization Management & Safety (PUMS) program in place. The program makes sure that members are getting appropriate health care, especially when it comes to patient safety.

**PUMS Program Goal:**
PUMS deals with prescription drugs as well as other kinds of health care, making certain the member is getting treatment that is appropriate and safe. Virginia Premier’s clinical staff reviews our members’ use of health care services to see whether they should be in the PUMS program. For members in the PUMS program, Virginia Premier takes extra steps to make sure they use services safely.

**Being considered for PUMS does NOT mean a member has done anything wrong.**
For any member who may be at risk for unsafe services, Virginia Premier must review whether the member should be in the PUMS program. In cases involving oral buprenorphine use, the member will be automatically enrolled in the PUMS program.

**How Might PUMS Change a Member’s Care?**
Virginia Premier may offer case management services. Virginia Premier could set a single doctor for controlled substances to see the member, or a single pharmacy to provide controlled substance prescription drugs.

**PUMS Member Rights:** Virginia Premier will send every PUMS member a letter about the program. The letter will make clear how the member can get emergency care. The letter will also tell them how they can appeal being placed in the PUMS program.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Virginia Premier’s doctors and pharmacists now use the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP). The PMP helps them make sure that prescription drugs are used safely. Among other Patient Utilization Management & Safety (PUMS) triggers, we review patients who have:
- **High Average Daily Dose:** > 120 cumulative morphine milligram equivalents (MME) per day over the past 90 days. **And/or**
- **Concurrent use of Opioids and Benzodiazepines**— at least 1 Opioid claim and 14 day supply of Benzo (in any order)

Our approach is to work collaboratively with patients and providers to ensure safe and appropriate use of controlled substances. We utilize and promote:
- PMP Checks
- Letter to Doctor & Member
• Soft and Hard Pharmacy edits for Benzodiazepine and Opioid utilization
• Following CDC Opioid Guidelines
• Case Management as appropriate

We greatly appreciate your collaboration and Health Care service to our members. As part of our PUMS safety review we hope to collaborate with you for complete patient information with the goal of validating safe and appropriate controlled substance use and coordinated patient care.

ADDITIONAL ANCILLARY SERVICES

Physical and Occupational Therapy
Physical and Occupational Therapies are rehabilitative services available to Virginia Premier Elite Plus members. Evaluations do not require an authorization. Therapy services require prior authorization and medical necessity must be demonstrated based on InterQual© criteria. Virginia Premier Elite Plus will authorize 12 treatment visits until the therapist submits the treatment plan to Virginia Premier. The therapist must then submit a treatment plan to Virginia Premier Elite Plus for prior authorization of additional services beyond the evaluation and 12 treatment visits. Extensions may be approved based on medical necessity.

Inpatient Rehab Services
Inpatient rehabilitation may be provided through a participating rehabilitative hospital or other specialized facility. Services include rehabilitative nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy and other forms of approved therapy. Services require prior authorization before admission for inpatient rehabilitation.

Audiology and Speech Pathology Services
Inpatient and outpatient services for speech, language and hearing disorders are covered services. All services require prior authorization from Virginia Premier Elite Plus.

Vision Services
Virginia Premier has contracted with Vision Service Plan (VSP) to provide routine vision care for eligible members.

Vision Benefits (age 21 and over):
Non-diabetic eye exams will be covered every 24 months. Diabetic eye exams will be covered every 12 months. Lenses and frames will be covered every 24 months with a $100 allowance towards the purchase of lenses and frames.

Medically necessary services associated with eye surgeries are also covered under Virginia Premier Elite Plus. Members may select a provider of their choice from Virginia Premier's Provider Directory or they may call the Member Services Department for assistance in selecting a provider. Members may also contact VSP Customer Service at 1-800-877-7195.
Dental Services
Virginia Premier Elite Plus covers one oral exam, one cleaning and one set of bitewing x-rays per year. Additionally, the member’s care coordinator will attend the first dental visit with an ID/DD waiver recipient to ease anxiety. Virginia Premier Elite Plus will also cover dental sedation for the previously listed services for individuals over 21 that would not be able to have dental care without sedation.

Home Health Services
Home health services are available to Virginia Premier Elite Plus members. These services must be provided by a participating home health agency and provided to a Virginia Premier Elite Plus member in their home. Home health services must be authorized by the Primary Care Physician or by the Obstetrician when acting as the PCP for a pregnant member. Home health services are intended to provide skilled, short-term services to aid in the member’s recovery and/or to provide assistance with the activities of daily living. Evaluations do not require an authorization. Contact Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Utilization Review (UR) nurse to authorize home health services. Virginia Premier Elite Plus will authorize 12 treatment visits upon request until the provider submits the treatment plan to Virginia Premier Elite Plus for additional visits.

Durable Medical Equipment (DME), Prosthetic Devices and Supplies
Virginia Premier Elite Plus will cover all medically necessary equipment and supplies for rental or purchase when ordered by a contracted Virginia Premier Elite Plus participating provider. DME services must be pre-authorized by Virginia Premier. Please refer to DMAS Appendix B (Medicaid) for items covered under the Medicaid Plan and Medicare.gov/publications to view the booklet “Medicare Coverage of Durable Medical Equipment and Other Devices” for items covered under the Medicare Plan. The Certificate of Medical Necessity (CMN) form can be found on the DMAS and CMS Web sites. Examples of covered items include (but not limited too):

- Ostomy supplies
- Respiratory/oxygen equipment and supplies
- Diabetic monitors and test strips for insulin dependent diabetics
- Syringes and needles
- Glucose monitors
- Equipment and supplies for asthma related conditions
- Wheelchairs and Walkers
- Artificial arms, legs and their necessary supportive devices when medically necessary, to include orthotics when part of an approved rehabilitative program

Nutrition Services
Virginia Premier Elite Plus will cover all medically necessary visits to dieticians or nutrition clinics with a recommendation by the member’s PCP. Nutritional assessment
and counseling is covered for all pregnant women and coordinated through the Virginia Premier Elite Plus Case Manager. These services do require authorization from Virginia Premier Elite Plus.

**WIC (Women, Infants and Children)**
Virginia Premier Elite Plus will work closely with Primary Care and OB/GYN providers to identify any member who may benefit from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). This program is administered by the Virginia Department of Health and provides supplemental nutrition, formula and vouchers for other food products.

As part of the Healthy Heartbeats™ program, members receive assistance in enrolling into the WIC program. In addition, as part of the incentive program they receive bonus points for WIC enrollment that may later be retrieved for gifts at local grocery stores or baby stores.

**GENERAL LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS**

**Non-Covered Services**
Virginia Premier Elite Plus is pleased to offer its members a comprehensive array of health benefits. However, there are a few services that are not covered by our Plan. If you have any questions about covered benefits, please contact our Medical Management Department. Non-covered services include:

- Chiropractic Services are not covered by Virginia Premier Elite Plus;
- Private duty nursing services are not covered for members over 21 years old;
- Experimental or investigational procedures are not covered by Virginia Premier Elite Plus but will be evaluated on an individual basis for medical necessity and exhaustion of other viable treatments;
- Services and supplies that are not medically reasonable and necessary;
- Excluded items and services;
- Services and supplies that have been denied as bundled or included in the basic allowance of another service; and
- Items and services reimbursable by other organizations or furnished without charge.

**Carved Out Services**
- Waiver services for the following waivers:
  - Alzheimer’s Assisted Living (AAL)
  - Day Support (DS)
  - Developmental Disabilities (DD)
  - Intellectual Disabilities (ID)
- Developmental Disability Support Coordination
Preadmission screening services
School-Health Services
Residential Treatment Facility Services - Level C for children under the age of 21
Community Intellectual Disability Case Management

**Exclusions from Virginia Premier Elite Plus Enrollment**

The following individuals are excluded from enrollment in the MLTSS program:

- Individuals enrolled in the Alzheimer's Assisted Living (AAL) Waiver
- Individuals enrolled in the Commonwealth’s Medallion 3.0 and Title XXI CHIP Programs
- Individuals enrolled in a PACE program
- Individuals enrolled in Money Follows the Person (MFP)
- Newborns whose mothers are MLTSS enrollees on their date of birth, unless the newborns qualify for MLTSS as outlined in the MLTSS Contract
- Dual eligible members without full Medicaid benefits, such as:
  - Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMBs)
  - Special Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMBs)
  - Qualified Disabled Working Individuals (QDWIs)
  - Qualifying Individuals (QIs)
- Individuals enrolled in a Medicaid-approved hospice program at the time of enrollment. However, if an individual enters a hospice program while enrolled in MLTSS, the member will remain enrolled in MLTSS.
- Individuals who live on Tangier Island
- Individuals under age 21 who are approved for DMAS Psychiatric RTC Level C programs as defined in 12VAC 30-130-860
- Individuals with end stage renal disease (ESRD) at the time of enrollment into MLTSS. However, an individual who develops ESRD while enrolled in MLTSS will remain in MLTSS
- Individuals who are institutionalized in state and private ICF/ID and state mental health nursing facilities
- Individuals who reside at Piedmont, Catawba, and Hancock State facilities operated by DBHDS
- Individuals who reside in nursing facilities operated by the Veterans Administration
- Individuals participating in the CMS Independence at Home (IAH) demonstration
- Individuals enrolled in Plan First (DMAS’ family planning program for coverage of limited benefits surrounding pregnancy prevention)
- Individuals who have any insurance purchased through the Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) program
• Individuals enrolled in the Governor’s Access Plan (GAP), which provides basic medical and targeted behavioral health care to some uninsured Virginians with severe mental illness, or other limited benefit aid categories

**Non-Participating Providers**

Out-of-network providers are required to obtain authorization prior to providing services (excluding emergency services).

Out-of-network providers are prohibited from causing the cost to the member to be greater than it would be if the services were furnished within the network. If an out-of-network provider delivers services to a member, Virginia Premier will coordinate with the provider to ensure the cost to the member is appropriate.

**MEDICAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS**

**Medical Outreach**

While visiting with the member, the Medical Outreach Representative will assess the home environment and elicit from the member specific health and social service needs. A Health Risk assessment may be completed with the member. As a result, our outreach team will also play a “case-finding” role referring members to the appropriate Care Management Team for ongoing follow-up, as well as to other community social service resources as necessary.

All pregnant members are enrolled in the Healthy Heartbeats™ program with regular home follow-up visits. This program offers personalized pre-natal care from conception to delivery to insure the best pregnancy and delivery experience for our members.

**Disease Management**

Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s disease management programs are designed to help members manage their chronic conditions. Our programs are based on nationally accepted guidelines, support the physician-patient relationship and are available at no additional cost to the members.

We provide disease management programs for the following chronic conditions: Asthma, Heart Disease, Heart Failure, COPD, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Chronic Kidney Disease (stage 3- dialysis), Diabetes, and Cancer (breast, lung, colorectal, blood). All programs are coordinated with the member’s Care coordinator as part of the ICT. If the member has a Targeted Case Manager (TCM) through the CSB, the disease manager will work with the TCM to coordinate care through the ICT.

Program components include:

- Educational materials
- Referrals to community classes and resources
• Case management
• 24-Hour Nurse Advice line
• Special monitoring equipment (peak flows, glucose meters)

Call Medical Management for referrals or comments about our programs. We are staffed by registered nurses Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (except holidays). Please encourage your patients to participate in the programs and call us if you have any questions or concerns.

**Care Management**
Virginia Premier Elite Plus uses a holistic, person-centered, and collaborative approach to care which is based on a comprehensive assessment strategy. The first step in the process is the administration of a Health Risk Assessment (HRA) that was created to evaluate the medical, psychosocial, cognitive and functional status of the member to better determine their medical, behavioral health, long term supports and services, and social needs.

This assessment serves as a foundation in the development of an individualized care plan (ICP) which is updated at regular intervals to address the member’s completion of goals, preferences, and changes in condition. Members who have service plans in place with other providers will have those elements incorporated into their overarching ICP to ensure their ongoing needs are addressed and met with targeted interventions.

Another component central to the care management program is the interdisciplinary care team (ICT) which is comprised of the member, caregiver/family, primary care provider, care coordinator, and other internal/external participants of the member’s choosing including but not limited to:

- Targeted Case Manager
- Specialist Physicians
- Behavioral Health Providers
- Service Providers (LTSS)
- Medicare Plan Representative (if a dual-eligible member)
- Pharmacy
- Disease Management
- Health Education
- Social Worker

Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s care coordinators utilize strategies such as motivational interviewing and coaching to assist members in realizing their health goals and adoption of health-conscious behaviors to promote a better quality of life and health outcomes.

**Preventive Health and Wellness Programs**
Virginia Premier Elite Plus understands the important role of health education in
prevention of illnesses. We are proactive in our approach to health education and actively seek to identify members who may benefit from our programs. Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Health Education Department works closely with all other departments in Medical Management to assist with identification of members for health education services. Medical Outreach, Case Managers and Disease Managers perform assessments which include questions on health status and interest in health education classes or information. These surveys are then shared with health education to develop an individualized approach to presenting information to the member.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus values the importance of health education as a tool to stay healthy and empower the member. Virginia Premier Elite Plus offers free education classes that include:

- Aerobic exercise (water, chair and regular)
- Family Planning
- Prenatal/Parenting Skills
- Nutrition and Weight Loss
- Women’s Wellness
- Smoking Cessation

Health Education classes are taught at a variety of locations in the community to allow the member flexibility and greater access. Transportation is provided to all health education classes. One-on-one counseling sessions are provided if the member is not able to access a class at one of our locations, or if a barrier to learning is identified.

For more information about Virginia Premier Elite Plus's health education services, call our Health Education Department.

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**Quality Program Description**

All practitioners are required to cooperate with the Virginia Premier Elite Plus Quality Activities.

The goal of the Quality Program is to ensure the delivery of high quality health care (medical and behavioral health). The Quality Program concentrates on evaluating the quality of care offered, as well as the appropriateness of care provided. The objective of continuously improving the quality of care provided is to improve the overall health status of our members. Improvement of health status is measured by focusing on health outcomes.
In addition, Virginia Premier Elite Plus is committed to improving the communities where our members live through participation in public health initiatives on both the national and local levels and achievement of public health goals.

This is done by continual assessment using quality improvement concepts such as Six Sigma, root cause analysis, and Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA). This program is a population-based plan that acts as a road map in addressing common medical problems identified within our population.

The Virginia Premier Elite Plus Quality Program activities include the elements of: identification of performance goals, internal and external benchmarks, data collection, establishment of baseline measurements, barrier analyses, trending, measuring, analyzing, and development and implementation of corrective interventions as needed. The Virginia Premier Elite Plus Quality Program is designed to monitor, assess and continually advance care and the quality of services delivered.

The scope of the Quality Program promotes integration between clinical and non-clinical services provided to Virginia Premier members. The program is designed to monitor, evaluate and continually improve the care and services delivered by Virginia Premier Elite Plus practitioners and affiliated providers, across the full spectrum of services and sites of care. The program encompasses services rendered in various settings and is designed to resolve identified areas of concern on an individual and system wide basis. The Quality Program reflects the population served in terms of age groups, disease categories, special risk statuses and diversity.

The Virginia Premier Elite Plus Quality Program:

- Provides the organization with an annual Quality Program Description and Quality Program Evaluation
- Supports the interdepartmental collection, analysis, and reporting of data used in monitoring and evaluating care and service
- Identifies opportunities and develops interventions to improve care and services
- Identifies and addresses instances of substandard care including patient safety
- Tracks and monitors the implementation and outcomes of quality interventions
- Evaluates effectiveness of improving care and services
- Works with other departments to support organizational compliance with regulatory and accreditation standards

The goals and objectives of the Quality Plan include:

- Improve the health status of the populations that we serve
- Institute healthcare programs that will improve the health status of our members through member and provider education
- Focus studies on illnesses which frequently affect our members
- Continuously monitor and measure activities to demonstrate effective outcomes
Given our focus on the dual eligible population, Virginia Premier Elite Plus uses a quality improvement process that monitors activities that may have a deleterious effect on this unique population, and we have developed programs to address these specific concerns.

**Accessibility Standards**

In order to ensure that all of our members receive culturally-, linguistically-, and disability-competent care, Virginia Premier Elite Plus makes resources available to our provider community like language lines and training modules. Please visit www.vapremier.com for more information.

**Quality of Care Concerns**

**Definition:**
Quality of Care Issue: defined by Virginia Premier as any "confirmed" (confirmed quality issue by Medical Director) occurrence impacting, or potentially impacting, the quality of care of a MLTSS member. It is mandatory that all quality of care issues are reported to Virginia Premier.

Quality of Care issues may be generated from multiple sources. These sources include but are not limited to:

- Quality of Care Event
- Sentinel/Never-Prevention Event
- Health Risk Assessment (HRA) and/or Comprehensive Assessment (CA) Triggers
- Social Work/Specialized Behavioral Health Assessment Triggers
- Referral/Request from Medical Management (Medical Director (MD), Care Manager (CM), Utilization Review (UR) nurse, Social Worker (SW), etc.) or any other source

**Quality of Care Event:**

Examples of quality of care events that are routinely monitored to include, but are not limited to the following:

- Treatment in the Emergency Department (ED) within 7 days of discharge of an inpatient facility for the same diagnosis
- Readmission to the hospital within 7 days of discharge
- Unplanned return to the operating room during an inpatient stay
- Post-surgical infections
- Unplanned admission to the hospital after outpatient test or procedure
- Ketoacidosis Admissions (exclude if new onset of Diabetes)
- ED treatment or inpatient admission for hypertensive crisis/malignant hypertension
- Any other occurrence that would impede care or access to care
- Inappropriate Level of Care (LOC) determinations
- Member safety such as abuse, neglect or exploitation

**Sentinel/Never-Prevent Event:** as defined by The Joint Commission, is an unexpected occurrence involving death or serious physical or psychological injury, or the risk thereof. Virginia Premier defines a sentinel/never-prevention event as one of the following, but not limited to:
  - Trauma suffered while in a healthcare facility or provider's office
  - Surgery on wrong body part
  - Surgery on wrong patient
  - Loss of function not related to illness or condition
  - Rape in 24 hour care facility
  - Suicide in 24 hour care facility
  - Death

**Critical Incident:** defined by Virginia Premier as any "validated" as a Critical Incident in accordance with DMAS reporting requirement for VA 3.1. These include:
  - Willful use of offensive, abusive, or demanding language by a caretaker that causes mental anguish
  - Knowing, reckless, or intentional acts or failures to act which cause injury or death to an individual or which places that individual at risk of injury or death
  - Rape or sexual assault
  - Corporal punishment or striking of an individual
  - Unauthorized use or the use of excessive force in the placement of bodily restraints on an individual
  - Use of bodily or chemical restraints on an individual which is not in compliance with federal or state laws and administrative regulations

**Serious Reportable Events:** To include, but are not limited to:
  - Death (unexpected, suicide or homicide
  - Falls (resulting in death, injury requiring hospitalization, injury that will result in permanent loss of function)
  - Infectious disease outbreaks
  - Pressure ulcers that are unstageable or Stated III or IV
  - Traumatic Injuries (including third degree burns over more than 10 percent of the body) that results in death, require hospitalization, or result in loss of function
  - Restraint use that results in death, require hospitalization or result in loss of function
• All elopement in which a Member with a documented cognitive deficit is missing for 24 hours or more
• Media-related event. Any reporting of which the Contractor is aware that presents a potentially harmful characterization of the MMP or Virginia Premier Program

Virginia legal code defines mandatory reporters as:

• Any person licensed, certified, or registered by health regulatory boards listed in 54.12503 of the Code of Virginia, except persons licensed by the Board of Veterinary Medicine.
• Any mental health services provider as defined in § 54.1-2400.1.
• Any emergency medical services personnel certified by the Board of Health pursuant to § 32.1-111.5.
• Any guardian or conservator of an adult.
• Any person employed by or contracted with a public or private agency or facility and working with adults in an administrative, supportive or direct care capacity.

Procedures/Guidelines:

1. Provider or external source identifies critical incident
2. Verbal reporting to occur within 24 hours with written documentation within 48 hours.
3. Phone in report to
   
   **Adult Protective Services:** 1-888-832-3858 or
   **Child Protective Service:** 1-800-552-7096

4. Notify Virginia Premier either by phone, fax, or email within 24 hours:
   • Phone: 1-877-719-7358, option 1-3-1-1 (Member Services, Medical Management, Care Coordination, Member Care Specialist hunt group)
   • Critical Incident Fax Line: 804-200-1962
   • Email: criticalincident@vapremier.com

Inform the Member Care Specialist the following information for any alleged abuse, neglect, exploitation reported to APS or CPS:

• Member name
• Date of Birth
• Member ID or Medicaid ID
• Provider name and NPI and contact number
• Nature of incident
• Name of agency notified and reference number
• Contact person
• Date and time reported
5. Virginia Premier email will notify Regional Care Coordination Managers, Manager of Population Health Outcomes, and Compliance.
6. The Regional Care Coordination Manager will identify the Care Coordinator assigned to the member.
7. The assigned care coordinator will supply member assessment and follow up.
8. The Care Coordinator will send a request in Vital to have the Social Worker follow up with the member and APS/CPS/Department of Health.
9. The Care Coordinator will send a request in Vital to Quality for review.

Examples of the Virginia Premier Elite Plus Quality Program at Work
Virginia Premier Elite Plus is committed to increasing the percentage of pregnant members receiving appropriate pre-natal care. A number of different strategies have been implemented to accomplish this objective. These strategies include modified physician reimbursement to encourage Obstetric providers to increase the number of early and periodic pre-natal examinations as well as the creation of a Maternal Child Health Coordinator position dedicated to working with our expectant members. Our Healthy Heartbeats™ program emphasizes outreach activities, prenatal visits and patient education. This program has reduced neonatal intensive care unit admissions by 50%. Correspondingly, the number of co-morbid conditions associated with this high-risk group has also been significantly reduced.

Practitioners Golden Globe Award (PGA)
The Practitioner Golden Globe Award (Exhibit B) is designed to recognize and promote outstanding participating practitioners who promote safe clinical practice, delivery of quality care and who voluntarily broaden their skill set and scope of practice through education and community involvement. Virginia Premier annually announces the outstanding practitioner through the Provider and Member newsletter. Practitioners as well as members are encouraged to nominate a practitioner to be recognized by Virginia Premier. The nomination form can be accessed at: www.vapremier.com.

Questions to Ask Your Physician
"Questions to Ask Your Physician" (Exhibit C) is established to encourage members to become proactive in their healthcare team. Members should engage in meaningful communication with their Doctor (and vice versa), to ask questions regarding:
- Treatment/Procedure (type of treatment; less invasive etc.)
- Medications (dosage, selection)
- Medical Test (how test is performed, benefits/risks)
- Get a full understanding of any operations, procedures, medications etc.
The goal is also to foster supportive relationships between members and their treating physicians to ensure safe clinical practice. This information can be downloaded at www.vapremier.com.

20 Tips to Prevent Medical Errors:
The "20 Tips to Prevent Medical Errors" (Exhibit D) is intended to provide awareness and prevention of Medical Errors. Virginia Premier Elite Plus takes pride in preventive
measures to provide positive outcomes. Members are encouraged to ask questions regarding:

- Medications (be sure pharmacist fills what the Doctor prescribe)
- Hospital Stays (Be sure healthcare workers wash hands, explanation of treatment plan upon discharge)
- Operation (Be sure that all parties agree on procedure and site of procedure).

This information can be accessed at: www.vapremier.com.

**Prenatal Care**

Virginia Premier Elite Plus is committed to increasing the percentage of pregnant members receiving appropriate pre-natal care. A number of different strategies have been implemented to accomplish this objective. These strategies include modified physician reimbursement to encourage Obstetric providers to increase the number of early and periodic pre-natal examinations as well as the creation of a Maternal Child Health Coordinator position dedicated to working with our expectant members. Our Healthy Heartbeats™ program emphasizes outreach activities, prenatal visits and patient education. This program has reduced neonatal intensive care unit admissions by 50%. Correspondingly, the number of co-morbid conditions associated with this high-risk group has also been significantly reduced.

**Access to Care**

Virginia Premier Elite Plus will make a good faith effort to provide written notice of a termination of a contracted provider at least 30 calendar days before the termination effective date to all members who are patients seen on a regular basis by the provider whose contract is terminating. Virginia Premier Elite Plus will assist the member in selecting a new practitioner. In cases, where there are acute or chronic conditions, the member may be allowed to continue to see the non-par practitioner on an interim, transitional basis, in order to maintain continuity of care needs of the affected members. If the member is in the second or third trimester of pregnancy, Virginia Premier Elite Plus will allow the member to continue to see the non-par practitioner through the postpartum period.

Standards for access and availability to care are established and monitored by Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Quality department. Performance against the standards is monitored by provider on-site surveys to evaluate appointment availability, provider audits and random telephone calls, member satisfaction surveys, member complaints/grievances, and encounter reports which identify members’ access patterns and identify members who have not received a health assessment within 90 days of enrollment. Virginia Premier Elite Plus is committed to high member satisfaction. We encourage our members to report any issues, including access to providers, to our Member Services Department. Results of these monitoring activities are analyzed and presented to the Healthcare Quality Utilization Management Committee (HQUM) for the development of Quality initiatives. Through our QP, this information is incorporated into corrective action plans that are implemented and monitored for effectiveness.
**Bereavement Program**
The Bereavement Program supports the behavioral health needs of members who have lost loved ones who were also members on the plan. Please contact the Quality Department, if you need assistance with accessing the program for one of your patients.

**MODEL OF CARE (MOC)**

**Care Coordinator Overview**
Virginia Premier Elite Plus serves a population requiring long term services and supports (LTSS). This includes children and adults with disabilities and complex needs, who may be living either in the community, group homes, or facilities. In addition to Community Well participants, Virginia Premier Elite Plus coordinates care for recipients of waivered services in the following categories: technology assisted, elderly/disabled with consumer direction, intellectual disabilities, day support, and developmental disabilities.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Case Management Program provides integration and coordination of medical and behavioral health to all members via the Regional Care Team (RCT). The RCT is comprised of Nurses, Social Workers, Care coordinators, Disease Managers, Health Educators, Medical Directors, Long Term Service and Support Coordinators, and Pharmacists, the RCT provides continuity for members as they move across and in between levels of care along the health care continuum.

Upon enrollment, Virginia Premier Elite Plus contacts all members to complete a Health Risk Assessment. This assessment covers social, functional, medical, behavioral, and cognitive, LTSS, wellness, and preventive domains. A unique, member centric care plan is developed based upon the results of this assessment, in conjunction with the member and caregiver.

To ensure Care Plans are comprehensive, holistic, member-driven, and evolve over time, an Interdisciplinary Care Team (including the member, their caregiver(s), treating providers such as Specialist(s), PCP, Therapists, Care coordinator and any other necessary members of the RCT) meets regularly to discuss progress and update the Care Plan. The ICT matches members and their caregivers with the expertise and resources needed to proactively identify issues, including caregiver burnout, and address barriers to attaining or maintaining optimal health status.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Care Management Program goals include:

1. Improved quality of life, satisfaction, and health outcomes for our members. This will be accomplished by helping members navigate the health care delivery system and coordinating care to promote smooth, safe transitions between service/treatment settings.

2. Efficient stewardship of health care dollars. This will be accomplished through the timely transfer of information between treating providers, identifying and
remediating barriers to treatment plan adherence, arranging services and supports to maximize opportunities for community living, reducing inappropriate utilization of services through timely and comprehensive discharge/transition planning, and promoting evidence-based Clinical Practice Guidelines, which are available to Providers on our website.

3. Enhanced access to essential medical, behavioral, and social services. This will be accomplished through the procuring a diverse network of providers in each region to meet the unique needs of our members, leveraging existing partnerships with external entities to provide innovative services, educating members and families on additional resources and programs available in the community, and providing timely referrals to both internal and external services to promote effective care coordination.

**PROVIDER REIMBURSEMENT AND CLAIMS**

**Claim Filing Guidelines**

Providers participating with Virginia Premier Elite Plus are required by their participation agreement to submit claims in the required format for all services rendered. For outpatient services, a CMS-1500 claim form must be used for physician, ancillary or other provider type services. For hospital or facility, a UB04 claim form must be submitted. When submitting claims, a provider should refer to the most recent version of the following Professional resources for coding accuracy: including: the American Medical Association Physicians’ Current Procedural Terminology (AMA/CPT Book), International Classification of Diseases, Revised Edition, Clinical Modification (ICD-10- CM) and HCPCS Level II Medicare Codes manuals.

For those providers that cannot submit on the corresponding CMS-1500 or UB04 claim form, a claim must be submitted through the Virginia Premier Elite Plus provider portal.

All claims submitted must be computer generated or typed to ensure accurate processing due to our claims imaging software. All required fields and appropriate CPT and diagnosis codes must be accurate on the claim form in order to be considered a clean claim. Virginia Premier cannot accept copied versions of claim forms. All claims must be submitted on original red and white claim forms.

**Note:** Handwritten claims are subject to be rejected.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus requires that all claims be submitted within the timeframes established in the provider contract. Please refer to your Virginia Premier Elite Plus contract for your specific timely filing period.

**Note:** It is very important that participating groups submit claims in accordance with the timely filing claims guidelines outlined in their agreement. We strongly encourage participating groups to educate their billing staff on the contractual claim submission terms in their agreement. Claims not submitted in accordance with the timely filing
guidelines will be denied. Paper Claim Submissions

Paper claims should be submitted to the following address:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Care Providers</th>
<th>Transportation Claims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Premier Elite Plus</td>
<td>Virginia Premier Elite Plus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 4369</td>
<td>P. O. Box 4369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond, VA 23220-0207</td>
<td>Richmond, Virginia 23220-5287</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital Claims</th>
<th>Claims Appeals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Premier Elite Plus</td>
<td>Virginia Premier Elite Plus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 4369</td>
<td>P.O. Box 4208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond, VA 23220-0120</td>
<td>Richmond, VA 23220-0307</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electronic Filing Clearinghouses

Electronic claims can be filed with Virginia Premier Elite Plus by utilizing one of the following Clearing Houses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clearinghouse</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Virginia Premier Payer ID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Availity</td>
<td>800-282-4548</td>
<td>All Claim Types: VPEP1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.Availity.com">www.Availity.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKesson (Relay Health)</td>
<td>800-981-8601</td>
<td>837 Professional: 1244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.mckesson.com">www.mckesson.com</a></td>
<td>837 Institutional: 4573</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Virginia Premier Elite Plus strongly encourages providers to consider filing claims electronically, which will reduce claims submission timeframes and increase account receivables payment for services rendered. Providers who wish to submit claims electronically must complete all necessary documents related to the process. Please allow at least thirty (30) business days to complete this process. Providers are encouraged to contact their claims clearinghouses to confirm they are set-up to submit claims electronically. Submitting claims electronically without full clearance will cause claims processing delays.

Virginia Premier Attention: EDI
Enrollment Team Fax: 804-819-5174

Providers participating with Virginia Premier Elite Plus who require the ability to create and submit claims through our direct data entry portal will need to do the following prior to submitting their first claim:

1. Go to vapremier.com/Providers/Medicaid/Provider Portals/New Users
2. Sign up for a new account through HealthTrio Connect
3. You will receive a response within 3-5 business days with your user name and temporary password.
4. Submit your claims submission via or portal.

**Coordination of Benefits (COB)**

CMS developed a model national contract, called the Coordination of Benefits Agreement (COBA), which standardizes the way that eligibility and Medicare claims payment information within a claims crossover context is exchanged.

For members with another primary carrier, all Explanation of Benefits (EOB’s) from the primary carrier will be required with claims submission for Virginia Premier to process secondary claims.

This section provides guidance for coordination of benefits for Medicaid Managed Care members who also have Medicare Parts A and B or other Third Party Liability (TPL) coverage.

Medicaid is considered the payer of last resort. For members that have other health insurance coverage, Virginia Premier Health Plan (VPHP) will coordinate benefits with the primary insurance payer. Please follow the guidelines below to assist in billing services for members who have dual coverage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services Being Billed</th>
<th>Primary Insurance</th>
<th>Billing Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MLTSS Waiver Services Only (Medicare Non Covered Services)</td>
<td>Virginia Premier D-SNP</td>
<td>Bill directly to Virginia Premier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Another D-SNP Payer</td>
<td>Bill directly to the primary insurance. Upon receiving the final determination (Remit/EOB) from the primary payer, submit a secondary claim to Virginia Premier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medicare FFS</td>
<td>Bill directly to the primary insurance. Upon receiving the final determination (Remit/EOB) from the primary payer, submit a secondary claim to Virginia Premier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other TPL Coverage</td>
<td>Bill directly to the primary insurance. Upon receiving the final determination (Remit/EOB) from the primary payer, submit a secondary claim to Virginia Premier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other Services</td>
<td>Virginia Premier D-SNP</td>
<td>Submit one claim directly to Virginia Premier who will process both the Medicare and Medicaid portion of the claim.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Another D-SNP Payer/Other TPL Coverage</td>
<td>Bill directly to the primary insurance. Upon receiving the final determination (Remit/EOB) from the primary payer, submit a secondary claim to Virginia Premier.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Medicare FFS  

Bill directly to CMS. Under the Coordination of Benefit Agreement (COBA), CMS will submit the crossover claim directly to Virginia Premier.

While we will accept paper secondary claims, we encourage providers to submit Coordination of Benefits (COB) claims electronically. Please ensure to follow the guidelines noted below when submitting secondary claims.

- For paper submissions
  - Include a copy of primary EOB.
- For EDI submissions
  - Create or forward claims in full HIPAA standard format (837) and include electronic payment information received from the primary payer's HIPAA standard electronic remittance advice (ERA).

**Clean Claim Submission**

A “clean claim” is defined as a claim that has no material defect or impropriety (including any lack of any reasonably required substantiation documentation) which substantially prevents timely payment from being made on the claim or with respect to which Virginia Premier has failed timely to notify the person submitting the claim of any such defect or impropriety.

**Primary Care Reimbursement**

Virginia Premier Elite Plus recognizes the important role that our primary care providers play in managing the healthcare of our members. Primary Care Physicians (PCP) are reimbursed on a fee for service basis.

**Primary Care Fee for Service**

Primary Care Physicians will be paid according to their Virginia Premier Elite Plus contract on a fee-for-service basis. If the PCP’s billed charges are less than the Virginia Premier Elite Plus allowable, the PCP will be paid their billed charges. All claims are to be filed on a CMS 1500 claim form or electronically.

**Encounter Reporting**

Encounter reporting is used to determine levels of service and to assist in the coordination of benefits. Virginia Premier Elite Plus also uses encounter information to monitor, evaluate and report utilization.

**Panel Report**

Primary care providers will receive be responsible for accessing the web portal to obtain their monthly report that will itemize their assigned member panel.

**Recoupment/Recovery Policy**

In accordance to the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 which established the Medicaid Program Integrity Plan which mandates Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)
to take measures to identify, recover and prevent inappropriate Medicaid payments. Virginia Premier Elite Plus will recoup/recover payments that are identified by our auditing and monitoring programs.

**Member Hold Harmless Policy**
Providers may not charge Members or Virginia Premier Elite Plus for any service that:

I. Is not a Medically Necessary Covered Service or non-covered service
II. For which there may be other Covered Services or non-covered services that are available to meet the member’s needs
III. Where the previous two items are not explained, that the Member will not be liable to pay the provider for the provision of any such services

Providers may not bill a Virginia Premier Elite Plus (Virginia Premier Elite Plus) member for medically necessary services covered under the Virginia Premier Elite Plus contract and provided during the member's period of enrollment. This provision shall continue to be in effect even if Virginia Premier Elite Plus becomes insolvent. However, if a member agrees in advance of receiving a non-covered service and this agreement is in writing, then the provider may bill the member for those non-covered services. Balanced Billing is prohibited under the Virginia Premier Elite Plus Program.

**Denied Claims/Reconsiderations**
All denied claims, in whole or in part, must be appealed in writing to Virginia Premier Elite Plus. The Member cannot be charged or held liable for payment for which services have been denied. The “appeal claim” must include any supporting documentation, which explains or satisfies the reason for the original denial and why it should be paid accordingly.

Reconsiderations for denied claims must be sent to Virginia Premier Elite Plus within sixty (60) days of the original date of denial. The Reconsideration claim form (Exhibit E) can be accessed at [www.vapremier.com](http://www.vapremier.com).

Claims denied for medical reasons (e.g. not medically necessary, etc.) must be appealed to Virginia Premier Elite Plus Medical Management Department with medical record documentation at:

Virginia Premier Elite Plus  
Medical Management Grievances and Appeals  
P. O. Box 5244  
Richmond, Virginia 23220
Filing of Specific Claim Types

Inpatient Rounding
Virginia Premier Elite Plus recognizes the need for PCPs to provide coverage for Inpatient Hospital Rounding. When providing inpatient coverage for another physician, please indicate the “referring physician” (e.g. the original PCP) in box 17 of the CMS 1500 claim form, “Name of Referring Physician or Other Source”, when submitting the claim for payment. This data is tracked and reported quarterly to Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Medical Director. PCPs are reimbursed fee for service if they provide attending physician, “inpatient care” or discharge management services.

Global OB Method
Providers who bill Virginia Premier Elite Plus for OB services should follow the AMA guidelines. The Global (bundled) delivery method includes: all antepartum visits, delivery (to include all services associated with the admission and discharge), and postpartum visits. If a provider provides prenatal services but does not perform the delivery then visits should be billed to Virginia Premier Elite Plus as follows: CPT 99201-99215 for 3 or less visits for each visit, CPT 59425 if member had 4-6 visits (unit should be 1) and CPT 59426 if member had 7 or more visits (unit should be 1).

Preventive E&M Services
Providers should bill preventive Evaluation and Management (E&M) services using the CPT code range of 99381 – 99397 to reflect preventive medicine. Preventive medicine services should be billed using the appropriate “V” diagnosis code from the ICD-10 diagnosis listing. Also, all services billed for preventive medicine must include any appropriate modifiers.

Injectables
When submitting claims for injections:

- Provide the name, dosage and strength of the injectable drug.
- Virginia Premier requires that prescription drug products using a drug-related Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) J-code, to include the National Drug Code (NDC) of the drug dispensed on all electronic (837P) and paper claims (CMS-1500) submissions. The quantity of each NDC submitted and the unit of measurement qualifier (F2, ML, GR or UN) will also be required.

Unlisted Procedure Codes
All procedure Codes ending in “99” must have additional documentation attached to the claim to sufficiently explain the services provided. This documentation may be an office note, operative note, invoice or other documentation. This information is used in determining the medical appropriateness of the service or supply as well as the level of reimbursement for these services. Lack of supporting documentation may result in a lower level of reimbursement or a denial.

Modifiers
Modifiers are important in determining the level of reimbursement for services rendered.
in different settings. Include modifiers when appropriate to avoid unnecessary delay or reduction in payment. Virginia Premier Elite Plus follows the use of modifiers as outlined in the CPT (Current Procedural Terminology). Virginia Premier Elite Plus accepts all AMA approved modifiers.

Collection of Charges from Third Parties
Virginia Premier Elite Plus providers should verify the member’s eligibility for each visit. Individuals enrolled in comprehensive health insurance, group health plans, and/or insurance provided to military dependents, are excluded from eligibility with Virginia Premier Elite Plus. If the recipient is enrolled in and receives services through Virginia Premier Elite Plus and is subsequently discovered to have another source of health insurance, Virginia Premier Elite Plus shall retract payments made for such services and deny them as coordination of benefits until primary carrier payment information is received.

Reimbursement of Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners
Virginia Premier Elite Plus realizes that medical services may sometimes be provided by physician assistants (PA) and nurse practitioners (NP). Reimbursement for services provided by PAs and NPs under the supervision of a participating Virginia Premier Elite Plus provider shall be reimbursed to the credentialed provider.

If a nurse practitioner (family or nurse midwife) wants to bill directly for their services, they must submit a Virginia Premier Elite Plus provider application, complete the credentialing process and be a participating practitioner with Medicaid.

Virginia Premier does not credential Physician Assistant’s. However, Virginia Premier Elite Plus does allow for PA’s to render care to our members. PA’s and NP’s are expected to follow the regulations as set forth by the Virginia Board of Medicine when rendering care to Virginia Premier members.

DME Individual Consideration Request Submission
DME Individual Consideration (IC) Item: HCPCS codes that do not have a corresponding reimbursement rate. The provider/DME supplier must submit Certification of Medical Necessity (CMN) Form for DME requests to the Medical Management Department for authorization. When submitting a claim for IC request, the vendor must attach to the claim the wholesale (cost) invoice and retail invoice including description for all items, and HCPCS codes. Without both the wholesale and retail invoices, the claims will be denied. Items will be reimbursed in accordance to Virginia Premier Elite Plus fee schedule.

Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS)
LTSS providers are required to have a National Provider Identifier (NPI) in order to submit and have claims processed.

Patient Pay
Patient Pay is the amount of a Medicaid member’s income that must be contributed to the cost of his or her care. The amount of patient pay is determined by the Department of Social Services (DSS) based on the member’s income and medically related deductions.
MEMBER RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS

Members of Virginia Premier Elite Plus are entitled to all the benefits outlined in their Member Handbook/Evidence of Coverage. With Virginia Premier Elite Plus support, each member must learn the plan guidelines, follow proper procedures and seek services from our network of participating providers. Members can exercise these rights without having their treatment adversely affected.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus members have the right to:

- A right to a copy of the Privacy Notice annually or when requested.
- Be free from any form of restraint or seclusion used as a means of coercion, discipline, convenience, or retaliation, as specified in Federal regulations on the use of restraints and seclusion.
- Be treated with respect and with due consideration for his or her dignity and privacy.
- Call Member Services to file a complaint/grievance about Virginia Premier Elite Plus, or to file an appeal if they are not happy with the answer to their inquiry (question), complaint/grievance, or care given.
- Choose their personal Virginia Premier Elite Plus doctor/Primary Care Physician (PCP).
- Change their personal Virginia Premier Elite Plus doctor and choose another one from Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Provider Directory (included in the enrollment/membership package).
- Free exercise of rights and the exercise of those rights that does not adversely affect the way Virginia Premier Elite Plus and its providers treat their members.
- Have healthcare services twenty-four (24) hours a day, three hundred and sixty-five (365) days a year, including urgent, emergency and post stabilization services.
- Have their doctor tell them about all treatment options and alternatives, presented in a manner that can be easily understood, regardless of the cost or benefit coverage. They can also receive a second opinion from Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s network of providers.
- Have timely access to their medical records in accordance with applicable State and Federal laws. They may be required to sign for release of those records.
- Make suggestions regarding Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Member Rights and Responsibilities statement, which is found in the member handbook.
- Make their own doctor/PCP appointments to be seen in their private office at their convenience.
- Not be balanced billed by any provider for covered services other than the Patient Pay established by DSS towards LTSS services.
- Not be discriminated against due to; medical conditions, including physical and mental illness, Claims experience, Receipt of healthcare and Medical history. Not
to be treated against their will.

- Participate with their doctor in making decisions about their health care, give their consent for all care, and make decisions to accept or refuse medical care to the extent permitted by law and be made aware of the medical consequences of such action.

- Provide language assistance services including but not limited to interpreter and translation services and effective communication assistance in alternative formats, such as, auxiliary aids, free of charge to Members and/or the Member’s representative.

- Receive information on available treatment options and alternatives presented in a manner appropriate to the Member’s condition and ability to understand

- Receive information in accordance with 42 CFR § 438.10.

- Receive information about Virginia Premier Elite Plus, its services, costs, providers, network pharmacies, drugs, and Members’ Rights and Responsibilities.

- Rights to reasonable accommodations

- Request and receive a copy of his or her medical records and request that they be amended or corrected, as specified in 45 CFR §§ 164.524 and 164.526.

- Timely access to their PCP and referrals to specialists when medically necessary or as needed and timely access to all covered services, both clinical and non-clinical.

- To know the names and qualifications of the physicians and healthcare professionals involved in their medical treatment.

- To privacy and to have your medical records and personal health information kept private unless they sign a permission form.

- To see their doctor/PCP, get covered services; get their prescriptions filled within a reasonable period of time. They should not be afraid to ask their doctor/PCP questions.

- To use Advance Directives (such as a Living Will or a Power of Attorney). Provide information to members about advance directives and any changes made in state law as soon as possible but no later than 90 days after the effective date of change.

- Treatment with quality care, respect and dignity regardless of their race, physical or mental ability, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, creed, age, religion or their national origin, cultural or educational background, economic or health status, English proficiency, reading skills or source of payment for your care.

**Supplemental Member Rights**

Virginia Premier Elite Plus members also have the right to:

- Confidentiality when coordinating care including medical records, member information and appointment records for the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases.

- File any type of grievance, including those related to advance directives, with Virginia Premier by calling the toll free line at 1-877-719-7358, the Department of Medical Assistance Services, the Bureau of Insurance and the Department of
Health.

- Get emergency care and family planning services in or out of network without prior authorization. Family planning services, preventive services, and basic prenatal care do not need preauthorization, but the member should get care from an in network doctor/provider.

- Give female members direct access (no referral needed) to a woman’s health doctor/provider in the network for covered routine and preventive care services. This is in addition to the member's assigned primary care doctor/provider if that person is not a women’s health doctor/provider.

- Have his/her healthcare needs and information discussed and given to the doctors/providers they want. The member is advised to sign a release form with their current provider in order to have the information released.

- Have the doctor write in his or her medical record whether or not the member has completed an advance directive.

- Not have the doctor/provider condition the delivery of care or discriminate against a member based on whether he/she has completed an advance directive form.

- To be held harmless (not responsible for the bill or extra costs), if out of network services are given to a member for emergency care or care that has been preauthorized other than the Patient Pay established by DSS for LTSS services.

- To contact Virginia Premier Elite Plus staff that has been trained on advance directives and asks questions, if needed.

- To have any service that has been stopped reactivated, if a member's location is known.

- To obtain care from a doctor/provider acting within the lawful scope of practice. Virginia Premier Elite Plus may not prohibit, or otherwise restrict, a member's doctor/provider from advising or advocating on behalf of a member who is his/her patient related to the member’s health condition, medical care or treatment choices, including any other treatment that may be self-administered.

- To obtain information in different formats (i.e., large print, Braille, etc.), if needed and in an easy form that takes into consideration the special needs of those who may have problems seeing or reading.

- To see a doctor of his/her choice based on language and/or race and one who is sensitive to the member’s cultural needs, including those who cannot speak English well and those with different cultural and racial backgrounds.

- To see an in network doctor in a timely manner based on the access standards listed in this document under the section called: Access to Health Care Standards.

- To see in network doctors/providers with the same office hours as those for other patients who may not have Medicaid like private commercial insurance members and or other types of Medicaid members (fee for service), if the doctor/provider sees only Medicaid members.
Member Responsibilities

- Act in a way that supports the care given to other patients and helps the smooth running of their doctor’s office, hospitals and other offices.
- Carry their Member Identification Card with them at all times.
- Choose a Virginia Premier Elite Plus Primary Care Physician (PCP) from the provider directory. Work with their PCP to help establish a proper patient/physician relationship.
- Follow plans and instructions for care given by their physician.
- Get their healthcare from a participating PCP, hospital or other health care provider.
- Give their PCP and other providers honest and complete information they need about their health to care for them.
- Inform their PCP of visits to other doctors so that he can be kept informed about the care that they are receiving.
- Inform Virginia Premier Elite Plus if they have other health insurance coverage.
- Keep their doctor’s appointments or call to cancel them at least twenty-four (24) hours ahead of time.
- Learn the difference between emergency and urgent care. Know: What is considered an emergency, what to do if an emergency happens and how to keep one from happening?
- Let Virginia Premier Elite Plus know if they have any problems, concerns or suggestions on how we can work better for them.
- Take into advisement the recommendations of the Case Managers and other healthcare professionals at Virginia Premier Elite Plus.
- Tell the doctor that they are a member of Virginia Premier Elite Plus at the time that they speak with their doctor’s office.
- Understand their health problems and discuss and/or agree upon a treatment plan with their physician.

Advance Directives (Patient Self-determination)

**Living Will:** This is a written document that specifies what medical treatment the patient wants, should they be unable to communicate their wishes.

**Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care:** A written document indicating that the individual has chosen someone to make healthcare decisions on their behalf, should they be unable to do so.

**Grievance and Appeals Procedures**
Virginia Premier Elite Plus is committed to providing high quality healthcare and service to its members. To ensure an open dialogue with our members, Virginia Premier Elite Plus has processes in place to fully investigate and address member complaints,
grievances, and appeals and to incorporate this information into the continuous quality improvement process.

The complaint, grievances, and appeals system processes have been established with the following objectives:

- To promote member satisfaction with the care and services Virginia Premier Elite Plus provides
- To ensure timely and thorough investigation of a member’s concerns
- To warrant and document effective resolution of member complaints
- To allow adequate opportunity for members to appeal a decision
- To ensure complete tracking and logging of all complaints, grievances and appeals
- To perform regular and periodic analysis of issues identified and to categorize opportunities for improvement related to services rendered to our members
- To develop an action plan for implementation of identified grievance and appeals quality improvements
- To ensure monitoring and oversight of activities for the effectiveness of such corrective measures

Virginia Premier Elite Plus provides information about the grievance and appeals process and procedures to all plan members at the time of enrollment, upon voluntary disenrollment, and at least annually thereafter. The Member Handbook explains how member complaints and grievances can be initiated.

A. The member’s right to file grievances and appeals.
   i. The requirements and time frames for filing grievances and appeals.

B. The right to a State fair hearing:
   i. The method for obtaining a State fair hearing.
   ii. The rules that govern representation at the State fair hearing.

C. The availability of assistance in the filing processes.

D. When requested by the member:
   i. Services will continue if the appeal or request for a State fair hearing is filed within the time frames specified for filing (which is the later of 10 days before the effective date of the advance notice or before the effective date of the adverse benefit determination and if the appeal or State fair hearing request is related to the termination suspension, or reduction of services and the service authorization has not expired).
   ii. The member may be required to pay the cost of services furnished while the appeal or State fair hearing is pending, if the final decision is adverse to the member.

Administrative concerns (such as receipt of ID cards, transportation issues, etc.) will be handled through Member Services.

If a quality of care or service complaint is identified, the issue is forwarded to the
Medical Management Department for investigation and prompt resolution.

If you are not happy with the answer given to you by Virginia Premier Elite Plus concerning your grievance or other action, you or another person authorized by you can file an **appeal within thirty (30) days of receiving Virginia Premier Elite Plus ’s response.** Your authorized representative can also file an appeal on behalf of your estate in the event of your death. You may also request a filing date extension of up to 14 days if it is requested within the thirty (30) day time frame.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Continuous Quality Improvement Committee (CQIC) oversees the grievance and appeal review process. Administrative reviews are the responsibility of the Member Services Department. Quality of care/service reviews are the responsibility of the Medical Management Department.

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**Appeals and Grievances Issues**

**Definitions**

**Quality of Care:** Issues at any level that include any implication of malpractice, or:

** Appropriateness of Care:** the Member alleges a management of care issue, conflicting diagnoses, improper treatment or exam, lack of thorough exam, unnecessary treatment, wrong treatment, unclear treatment, refusal of care that caused medical or surgical complications leading to additional service or care.

**Continuity of Care:** the Member expresses dissatisfaction with the appropriateness of medical care resulting in a disruption in medical treatment. The Member needs prompt assistance in obtaining appropriate medical treatment from another participating provider. The primary and often pressing issue is the need to obtain medical care.

**Refusal of Care:** the Member expresses dissatisfaction with a denial of care by participating provider for such reasons as the lack of an identification card, late for an appointment, Primary Care Physician (PCP) is unavailable and no covering physician is available.

**Refusal to Refer:** the Member expresses dissatisfaction with a denial of a PCP to refer the Member for specialty care.

**Quality of Service:** Issues at any level that include:

**Accessibility of Service:** the Member expresses dissatisfaction with access to care.

**Attitude of Provider:** the Member expresses dissatisfaction with the attitude of a participating provider or the provider’s office staff.
Facility Environs: the Member expresses dissatisfaction with a provider’s office environment.

Uneducated Provider or Staff: the Member expresses dissatisfaction with the provider or staff being unaware of Virginia Premier Elite Plus procedures to follow to access care.

Administrative: Issues at any level, which involves any topic other than ones, which have malpractice implications, quality of care or quality of service issues. These may include: late receipt of identification cards, inaccurate provider directories, inaccurate verification of benefits by Virginia Premier Elite Plus representatives, problems with transportation services, etc.

Filing an Appeal

The Appeals Process is a mechanism through which a practitioner/provider can request a review of a Virginia Premier, Inc. adverse action. An adverse action is the denial of a service authorization request, the reduction, suspension, or termination of a previously authorized service and/or denial in whole or in part of a payment for a covered service be made to Virginia Premier. Upon exhaustion of Virginia Premier appeal process, the practitioner or provider may appeal to the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) after a letter is sent informing them of the action. The appeal can also be requested at the time the decision is verbally given over the telephone or in person. Virginia Premier and DMAS will consider all requests for appeals, when the request for an appeal is made within thirty (30) days of notification of the decision.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus offers two types of Appeals: the Expedited Appeal and the Standard Appeal, which can be appealed to the following address.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus
Medical Management Grievances and Appeals
PO Box 5244
Richmond, Virginia 23220

Expedited Appeal (Only Urgent Requests on Behalf of Member)

Expedited Appeals may be requested telephonically or in writing for any urgent care requests. This applies to requests concerning admissions; continued stay or other health care services that:

- could seriously jeopardize the life or health of the member or the ability to regain maximum function, based on a prudent layperson’s judgment, or
- in the opinion of a practitioner with knowledge of the member’s medical condition, would subject the member to severe pain that cannot be adequately managed without the care or treatment that is the subject of the request.

A member or member’s authorized representative may request an expedited appeal of Virginia Premier, Inc. by telephoning or faxing the attached form to the numbers listed
below. Once the request is received, Virginia Premier Elite Plus will select an appeal practitioner of the same or similar specialty as typically manages the condition, procedure or treatment in question, to review the case. Virginia Premier Elite Plus will return a decision in writing to the requestor within seventy-two (72) hours of receiving the expedited appeal.

**Standard Appeal**

The practitioner/provider may request a standard appeal telephonically or in writing within thirty days (30) of the date of the adverse action letter. All oral requests must be followed by a written appeal request. This type of appeal applies to requests for non-urgent pre-service or post-services. The practitioner/provider may submit written comments, documents, records and other information relevant to the appeal. Appeals that involve clinical issues will be reviewed by a practitioner that was not involved in the initial denial that is of the same or similar specialty of the treating practitioner. An appointed Virginia Premier Elite Plus staff member that was not involved in the initial adverse decision will review non-clinical appeals such as benefit determinations. The practitioner/provider will be notified of the appeal decision in writing within thirty (30) calendar days of the appeal request.

The practitioner or provider may appeal to DMAS upon exhaustion of Virginia Premier’s appeals process by notifying DMAS in writing at the address below within 30 days of notification of Virginia Premier’s appeal decision.

Department of Medical Assistance Services
Appeals Division
600 East Broad Street Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 371-8488

**Filing a grievance**

The Grievance Process is a mechanism through which a Member and/or a Member’s representative may request a review of a matter that has caused the Member dissatisfaction with Virginia Premier Elite Plus. A grievance is an expression of dissatisfaction about any matter other than an action (i.e. denial, suspension or termination of services) taken by Virginia Premier Elite Plus. Possible subjects for grievances include, but are not limited to, the quality of care or services provided and aspects of interpersonal relationships such as rudeness of a provider or employee, or failure to respect the Member’s rights. A Member can request a grievance by telephone or in writing.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus will resolve and respond to all grievances within thirty (30) days from the date of initial receipt of the grievance.

Only written grievance requests will be responded to in writing, unless the Member requests a written response to a verbal grievance.
When the grievance is of a healthcare nature, individuals at Virginia Premier Elite Plus with appropriate clinical expertise in treating the Member’s condition or disease will make decisions on grievances.

Whenever a Member, Member’s Representative, or Provider is not satisfied with the resolution of a grievance, the Member, Member’s Representative, or Provider has the right to appeal the outcome of the grievance.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus will answer any questions regarding the Grievance and/or Appeal’s Process during normal business hours, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. by contacting Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Medical Management Department. Virginia Premier Elite Plus, Inc.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus
Medical Management Grievances and Appeals
PO Box 5244
Richmond, Virginia 23220
Fax 804-819-5171
Phone 877-719-7358

**State Fair Hearing Process**
Virginia Premier members can write directly to the State Medicaid Program to file a grievance or to file an appeal if they disagree with their health plan’s decision. Letters should be addressed to:

Department of Medical Assistance Services
600 E. Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 371-8488

Providers may also appeal to the State Medicaid Program after exhausting appeals with Virginia Premier Elite Plus. FAMIS members may request an External Review through DMAS after exhausting appeals with Virginia Premier Elite Plus.

During an appeal, each member also has the right to:

- Know that he/she may have to pay for the cost of the benefits if the state hearing decision is the same as Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s decision, to deny the benefits. If the final decision of the appeal is to deny the benefits, Virginia Premier Elite Plus may bill the member for the cost of all services or benefits that were pending during the appeal process.

- Have benefits continue pending the outcome of the appeal and/or state hearing.
The member can request continued benefits by writing a letter stating “please continue benefits during my appeal” and forwarding it to Virginia Premier Elite Plus, or by calling 877-719-7358

- Ask for an extension, orally or in writing, up to 14 calendar days, while the appeal is going on, if the extension is best for the member.
- To be contacted by Virginia Premier Elite Plus, in writing, of the appeal extension reason like “the appeal needs to be extended for additional information” and how the delay is best for the member.
- Look at all documents before and during the appeal, by writing to Virginia Premier Elite Plus with the request; the member can call calling 877-719-7358 for help
- To include, as parties to the appeal, the legal representative of a deceased member’s estate.

**PROVIDER PARTICIPATION INFORMATION**

**General Guidelines**
Participating physicians are responsible for fulfilling certain obligations and commitments as participants in our provider network. Contracted providers agree to abide by all rules and guidelines stated in the contract between Virginia Premier and the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS). Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Providing care and services to Virginia Premier Elite Plus members without discrimination or regard for the member’s race, creed, national origin, sex, age, religion, health status, source of payment or frequency of utilization of covered services.
- Physicians must be participating Medicaid providers.
- Providers must comply with provider access standards as set forth in the terms of the Medicaid Agreement to ensure that Virginia Premier Elite Plus members have appropriate access to routine, urgent and emergent care.
- Providers must submit timely utilization data in a format that will allow Virginia Premier Elite Plus to comply with DMAS reporting requirements. This includes information to demonstrate compliance with provision of EPSDT services.
- Providers must comply with all record keeping, record retention and special reporting requirements as set for the in the provider contract.
- Providers agree to allow authorized Virginia Premier Elite Plus representatives access to conduct office site reviews, with appropriate access to member’s medical records. Additionally, the provider agrees to preserve the full confidentiality of all medical records as stated in their contract.
- Providers agree to ensure the confidentiality of all patient records, including family planning services in accordance with the Medicaid Agreement.
• Providers must comply with the Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Medical Management procedures and must clearly specify referral approval requirements to any subcontracted providers.

• Providers agree not to charge eligible Virginia Premier Elite Plus members for medically necessary covered services under the DMAS contract. Providers may only bill if the member has consented in writing to pay for a non-Medicaid covered service prior to receiving the services.

• Providers agree to cooperate with any external review organization contracted by DMAS to perform quality studies.

• Providers agree to assist Virginia Premier Elite Plus enrollees with special needs. This may range from assistance with understanding managed care and the role of their PCP to referring members to community resources or Early Intervention Services.

• Providers agree to provide appropriate written notice regarding any operational changes related to their practice. These may include address or phone number changes as well as panel status changes.

Provider Availability
PCPs and Specialists must provide coverage for their practice twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week. PCP and Specialist offices must also have a published after hours telephone number. The member must be able to reach someone after hours. A voicemail alone after hours is not acceptable. All Providers must offer hours of operation that are no less than the hours of operation offered to persons who are not Virginia Premier Elite Plus members or their commercially insured or public fee-for-service insured individuals.

Credentialing and Re-credentialing Program Description
The Credentialing Program of Virginia Premier Elite Plus shall be comprehensive to ensure that its practitioners and providers meet the standards of professional licensure and certification. The process enables Virginia Premier Elite Plus to recruit and retain a quality network of practitioners and providers to serve its members and ensure ongoing access to care. It consistently and periodically assesses and evaluates a practitioner’s or provider’s ability to deliver quality care between credentialing and re-credentialing cycles, and it emphasizes and supports a practitioner’s and provider’s ability to successfully manage the health care of network members in a cost-effective manner.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus Board of Directors (the “Board”) has ultimate authority, accountability and responsibility for the Credentialing evaluation process (the “Credentialing Program”). The Board has delegated full oversight of the Credentialing Program to the Credentialing Committee. The Credentialing Committee accepts the responsibility of administering the Credentialing Program, having oversight of operational activities, which includes, but are not limited to making the final approval or denial decision on all practitioners and providers, as applicable.
**Credentialing Committee Structure & Activities**

The Chief Medical Officer or designee is responsible for the oversight and operation of the Credentialing Committee, and serves as Chairperson or may appoint a Chairperson, with equal qualifications. The Credentialing Committee is a peer-review body that includes representation from a range of participating practitioners including primary care (i.e., family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, general medicine, obstetrics and gynecology) and specialty practice. Allied health representatives include mental health, rehabilitation, etc. and may be appointed to serve as non-voting members, on an ad hoc basis. Members may be appointed or requested to attend the meeting representing Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s internal staff.

- Receive and review the credentials of all practitioners being credentialed or re-credentialed who do not meet the organizations established criteria, and to offer advice, which the organization considers. This includes evaluating practitioner files that have been identified as problematic (e.g. malpractice cases, licensure issues, quality concerns, missing documentation, etc.)
- Review practitioner credentials and give thoughtful consideration to the credentialing elements before making recommendations about a practitioner’s ability to deliver care.
- Establish implement, monitor, and revise policies and procedures for Virginia Premier Elite Plus credentialing and re-credentialing.
- Report to the HQUM and CQIC and other proper authorities, as required
- Annual Review of the credentialing program description, and other related objectives

**Practitioners Credentialed and/or Re-credentialed**

*Initial and ongoing reviews of the professional practitioners include:*

- Practitioners who have an independent relationship with Virginia Premier Elite Plus at an outpatient setting. An independent relationship exists when Virginia Premier Elite Plus selects and directs its members to see a specific practitioner or group of practitioners. An independent relationship is not synonymous with an independent contract. NCQA does not require the organization to credential some practitioners with whom it holds independent contracts.
- Practitioners who see members outside the inpatient hospital setting or outside freestanding, ambulatory facilities.
- Dentists who provide care under Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s medical benefits.
- Non-physician practitioners who have an independent relationship with Virginia Premier Elite Plus, as defined above, and who provide care under the organization’s medical benefits.
- Hospital based practitioners who have an independent relationship with Virginia Premier and an outpatient setting:
  - Anesthesiologists with pain-management practices
  - Cardiologists
  - University faculty who are hospital based and who also have private practices
- Dentists providing care under medical benefits:
  - Endodontists
  - Oral surgeons
  - Periodontists
- Non-physician practitioners who may have an independent relationship with Virginia Premier Elite Plus and provide care under Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s medical benefits:
  - Behavioral health practitioners
  - Nurse practitioners
  - Nurse midwives
  - Optometrists
  - Physical therapists
  - Occupational therapists
  - Vision Services providers providing care under medical benefits
  - Speech and language therapists

Types of practitioner files audited (internally) during the year to ensure ongoing compliance:
- Medical practitioners:
  - Medical doctors (MD)
  - Dentists (DDS/DMD)
  - Chiropractors (DC)-only applicable to FAMIS Members under the Medicaid line of business
  - Osteopaths (DO)
  - Podiatrists (DPM)
  - Nurse Practitioners (NP, PNP, ANP)
- Behavioral health practitioners:
  - Psychiatrists and other physicians
  - Addiction medicine specialists
  - Doctoral or master's-level psychologists who are state certified or licensed
  - Master’s-level clinical social workers who are state certified or licensed
  - Master’s-level clinical nurse specialists or psychiatric nurse practitioners who are nationally or state certified or licensed
Other behavioral healthcare specialists who are licensed, certified or registered by the state to practice independently.

**Process and Requirements**

Virginia Premier Elite Plus credentials all practitioners prior to being admitted into the Virginia Premier Elite Plus Network. The intent of the process is to validate and/or confirm credentials information related to a prospective or participating practitioner by contacting the primary source of the issuing credential directly.

Each practitioner must submit a legible and completed application, a consent form that is signed and dated, a confidentiality form that is signed and dated, and any other required documentation. Practitioners may also submit their applications and/or information to the Center for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH). Upon notification from the prospective practitioner that his/her application is filed with CAQH, Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s credentialing staff will promptly download the application to initiate the credentialing process.

The following information is obtained and verified according to the standards and utilizing the sources listed under Initial Credentialing:

- Completed Virginia Premier Elite Plus application
- Copy of the unrestricted (no limitations), current and valid license or license number for the participating practitioner
- Copy of the unrestricted (no limitations), current DEA Certificate, if applicable
- Copy of the medical malpractice policy face sheet
- Copy of the board certificate or highest level of education; proof of education, training and competency
- Copy of the current Curriculum Vitae, which must include work history (gaps or interruptions in work history 6 months or greater must be explained)
- Quality measures (initial credentialing site visit and medical record keeping practices)
- Primary Source Verification of associated credentialing documentation
- The Office of the Inspector General and the CMS Exclusions List will be checked monthly to ensure practitioners meet the specifications of CMS and are eligible for participation.
- The Credentialing Committee’s final decision (The practitioner shall be notified within 60 calendar days of the Committee’s decision)

**Primary Source Verification**

The Virginia Premier Elite Plus credentialing staff will conduct primary source verification as required by the most current and applicable Virginia Premier Elite Plus, DMAS, and/or
NCQA guidelines. Virginia Premier Elite Plus will contact the appropriate sources for verification of the various elements of the applicant’s application. These verifications may be completed in the form of documented phone calls, faxes and/or Internet website print outs.

Site Visit and Assessments/Surveys of Medical Record Keeping Practices
Site surveys are conducted at participating provider offices to ensure that Virginia Premier Elite Plus office site and medical record standards are met. The Quality Department is responsible for conducting office surveys and medical reviews for all randomly selected practitioners. Each office is evaluated against regulatory and accreditation standards, which have been adopted and incorporated into Virginia Premier Elite Plus policies and procedures.

Offices sites will be surveyed for the following categories:

- Physical accessibility
- Physical appearance
- Adequacy of waiting and examining room space
- Availability of appointments
- Adequacy of treatment record keeping

Site visits will also be conducted within 60 days for member complaints regarding:

- Physical accessibility
- Physical appearance
- Adequacy of waiting and examining room space

Records must be legible, orderly and easily located. A “blinded” or “model” medical record/treatment record may be selected for the medical record keeping practices assessment. The established performance threshold must be met. If the assessment falls below the 90% threshold, the practitioner will be required to develop and submit a corrective action plan.

In the event that the practitioner does not resolve the initial concern within the identified timeframe, the Quality staff will forward any quality issues of immediate concern to the Chief Medical Officer or designee for further action. The practitioner’s office shall be re-evaluated at least every six months until the deficiency is resolved. If the concern remains unresolved, the Chief Medical Officer or designee may recommend to the Credentialing Committee that the practitioner not be re-credentialed.

Practitioner Rights
- **Right to Application Status:** Each provider has the right to check the status of his/her application, correct erroneous information, and the right to review
• **Right to Confidentiality of Information:** Credentialing information is considered highly confidential; therefore, information obtained from NPDB, OIG, DHP, AMA, etc. may not be provided via telephone.

• **Right to Appeal Adverse Quality Decisions:** If a provider is denied network participation due to quality issues, the provider has the right to appeal that denial. Please be aware that quality denials may need to be reported to the appropriate authorities.

• **Right to a Nondiscriminatory Process:** Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s credentialing process is nondiscriminatory. It is the plan’s policy to not discriminate based solely on an applicant’s race, ethnic/national identity, gender, age, sexual orientation or the types of procedures performed or patients treated. Please be aware that this does not preclude the plan from including in its network practitioners who meet certain demographic or specialty needs. It does not preclude the plan from denying participation to a provider, if the network is adequate.

• **Right to be informed of Credentialing Outcomes:** Credentialing decisions will be communicated to providers, in writing, within 60 calendar days from the plan’s final decision.

• **Right to a Timely Application Process:** Applications will be processed with in accreditation and/or regulatory guidelines. The Plan will make every attempt to process applications within 90 calendar days of receipt in the Credentialing Department.

**Annual Reviews**
Virginia Premier Elite Plus conducts an annual review of the credentialing process to assess compliance with policies and procedures in accordance with Virginia Premier Elite Plus standards, DMAS standards, the standards set forth by National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and other applicable regulatory bodies. Additionally, Virginia Premier Elite Plus conducts annual reviews on delegated vendors to assure that they are in compliance with Virginia Premier Elite Plus, regulatory and accreditation standards and other applicable regulatory bodies.

**Request for a Practitioner’s Professional Qualifications**
Please be aware that if a member requests information related to a practitioner’s professional qualifications, such as the specialty, board certification information, etc., the member can contact Virginia Premier Elite Plus. A Member Services Representative will obtain the information from the Credentialing Department or another appropriate source and provide it to the member. The member could also be directed to the Virginia Premier Elite Plus Web Site at: [www.vapremier.com](http://www.vapremier.com) or the Virginia Board of Health Professions Web Site at: [http://www.vahealthprovider.com/](http://www.vahealthprovider.com/)
**Provider Sanctions**
Virginia Premier Elite Plus has developed policies and procedures for credentialing activities including sanctioning practitioners or providers on issues of quality of care and service. Sanctions may include mandated continuing education, corrective action planning, probationary periods, and re-evaluation of the contract and/or the termination of the practitioner or provider from the network. The policies include an appeal process for practitioners and providers, which are communicated to them through a variety of media. Virginia Premier Elite Plus also maintains procedures to guide reporting of serious quality concerns to the appropriate authorities.

**Provider Availability: Access and After-Hours Standards**
Participating providers must comply with the following access standards for Virginia Premier Elite Plus members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Virginia Premier Elite Plus Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appointment for health assessment, EPSDT screens, general physical exams, first examinations (preventive)</td>
<td>Scheduled within 30 days of request.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial health screens for new members under EPSDT regulations (preventive)</td>
<td>Scheduled within 30 days of request and completed within 3 months of enrollment date.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appointment for Routine primary care &amp; specialty care (non-urgent care for symptomatic conditions)</td>
<td>Scheduled within 14 calendar days of request.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Routine primary care</td>
<td>Scheduled within 30 calendar days of the enrollee’s request. Excludes appointments for routine physicals, regularly scheduled visit to monitor a chronic condition if the schedule calls for visits less frequently than once every 30 days, for routine specialty care like dermatology,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average wait time in PCP office</td>
<td>No more than 30 minutes following appointment time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialist appointment (non-urgent referral)</td>
<td>Scheduled within 30 calendar days or sooner of the request.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial assessments for pregnant women or persons desiring family</td>
<td>Scheduled within 10 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternity Care – First Trimester</td>
<td>Scheduled within 14 calendar days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternity Care – Second Trimester</td>
<td>Scheduled within 7 calendar days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternity Care – Third Trimester</td>
<td>Scheduled within 3 business days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>Virginia Premier Elite Plus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Risk Appointments</td>
<td>Scheduled within 3 business days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urgent appointments</td>
<td>Provided within 24 hours of enrollee’s request.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergent appointments</td>
<td>Immediately and/or referred to emergency facility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to after-hours care</td>
<td>Answering service/machine provides instructions on how to access care.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Appointment for Behavioral Health/Substance Abuse Services | i. Care for non-life threatening emergency within 6 hours.  
ii. Urgent Care within 48 hours.  
iii. Routine visits within 10 business days.  
Follow-up visit after inpatient admission within seven (7) calendar days. |          |
| Answering Telephone Hold                           | Within two (2) to (4) four rings 30 seconds or less |          |
| Virginia Premier Elite Plus Help Line              | Practitioners shall advise members to contact the Virginia Premier Elite Plus Nurse Advice Line for medical concerns prior to seeking services at the emergency room |          |

**Wait Time**

Office visit waiting times should be reasonable and the member should be kept informed if unavoidable delays should arise. Generally, waiting times should not exceed 30 minutes for scheduled appointments or urgent appointments; one hour for members who are “overbooked” as walk-ins.

**Missed Appointments**

For Virginia Premier Elite Plus members who fail to keep their scheduled appointments, the provider office should document the occurrence and attempt to contact the member to reschedule the appointment. Chronic no-show patients or patients who fail to follow a recommended Individualized Care Plan should be referred to Case Management at (800) 727-7536. A Virginia Premier Elite Plus Outreach Worker will contact the member and work with them directly to facilitate compliance.

*Note: Virginia Premier Elite Plus members cannot be billed for a missed appointment in accordance to Medicaid regulations.*
Medical Record Keeping Policies

Participating physicians are required to maintain adequate medical records and documentation relating to the care and services provided to Virginia Premier Elite Plus members. All communications and records pertaining to our member’s health care must be treated as confidential. No records may be released without the written consent of the member, or in the case of a minor child, their legal guardian. The medical record provides the mechanism that creates, maintains and insures the continuity, accuracy and integrity of clinical data. The medical record serves as the primary resource for information related to patient treatment, not only for the participating physician, but also for other health professionals who assist in patient care.

- At a minimum, participating physicians are expected to have office policies and procedures for medical record documentation and maintenance, which follow NCQA standards and ensure that medical records are:
  - Accurate and legible
  - Safeguarded against loss, destruction or unauthorized use
  - Maintained in an organized fashion for all members receiving care and services, and accessible for review and audit by DMAS or contracted External Quality Review Organizations
  - Readily available for Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s Medical Management staff with adequate clinical data to support utilization management activities
  - Comprehensive with adequate information to allow record transfer procedures to provide continuity of care when members are treated by more than one provider

Virginia Premier Elite Plus has established standards for medical record documentation and maintenance. These standards address medical record content, organization, confidentiality and maintenance. Virginia Premier Elite Plus requires medical records to be maintained by all affiliated practitioner offices and/or medical center locations in a manner that is current, detailed and organized, and which permits effective and confidential patient care and quality review. Medical record standards have been established to facilitate communication, coordination, and continuity of care and to promote efficient and effective treatment.

Medical Record Keeping Practices may be assessed for:

- Member grievances
- Quality of Care (QOC) Indicators
- Sentinel Events
- Practice specific member surveys
- Reports from Virginia Premier employees
- Credentialing Department ongoing monitoring process
- Other Quality Initiatives
The Virginia Premier Medical Record Standards are as follows:

**MEDICAL RECORDS KEEPING REQUIREMENTS**

**Confidentiality of medical records must be maintained by:**
Medical records being stored securely (i.e., confidential filing system, etc.)
Only authorized personnel having access to medical records
Conducting training on confidentiality related to member information periodically, and as needed Medical record documentation standards will be utilized.

Each medical record must include the following:

- History and physical
- Allergies and adverse reactions
- Problem list
- Medications
- Documentation of clinical findings and evaluation for each visit
- Preventive services/risk screening

Medical records must be organized and stored in a manner that allows for easy retrieval.

**Retention and Transfer of Records**
Participating physicians are required to maintain all records pertaining to Virginia Premier Elite Plus members for ten (10) years or longer if required under applicable state law.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus requires that participating physicians make medical records available to members and their authorized representatives within ten (10) working days of receiving a request.

PCPs are responsible for obtaining copies of medical records from both participating and non-participating providers to whom they make referrals, in order to ensure continuity of care and integrated medical records.

Practitioners who do not meet Virginia Premier Elite Plus’s medical record standards performance threshold will be expected to document and implement a corrective action plan within a specified time frame. At least every six months after the initial review, each deficiency will be monitored for progress and/or until the performance standards are met. If deficiencies are not resolved within a six-month time frame, they will be presented to the Senior Medical Director and/or the Credentialing Committee to begin a review and sanctioning process with the practitioner.
Office Site Reviews
Site visit assessments may be conducted, as the result of one or more of the following quality concerns:

- Member grievances
- Quality of Care (QOC) Indicators
- Practice specific member surveys
- Reports from Virginia Premier Elite Plus employees
- Credentialing Department ongoing monitoring process
- Other Quality related initiatives, such as HEDIS

The purpose of the office site review is to ensure practitioners meet the Virginia Premier Elite Plus regulatory and accreditation site standards for quality, safety and accessibility.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus Quality Staff will assess the following during an Office Site Visit:

- Facility Accessibility, Appearance and Adequacy
- Safety
- Adequacy of Medical Supplies and Practices
- Medical Record Keeping Practices

Practitioners who do not meet the Virginia Premier Elite Plus site visit assessment performance threshold will be expected to document and implement a corrective action plan within a specified time frame. At least every six months after the initial review, each deficiency will be monitored for progress and/or until the performance standards are met. If deficiencies are not resolved within a six-month time frame they will be presented to the Medical Director and/or the Healthcare Quality and Utilization Management Committee to begin a review process with the practitioner.

Waiver audits
Virginia Premier Elite Plus conducts waiver audits on behalf of DMAS. The Virginia Premier Elite Plus team works with DMAS to monitor elements of the waiver quality improvement strategies which must address assurances, including service plans, qualified providers, financial authority, member's health/safety/welfare, level of care, and administrative authority. Virginia Premier has had success with the development of a web-based tool for data collection, aggregation and reporting. Virginia Premier has been identified as a best practice by MAS for our work in this area.

Compliance and Program Integrity

The Program Integrity department was established to support Virginia Premier's commitment to compliance and the highest standards of conduct, honesty, integrity and
reliability in our business practices. Compliance is about “Doing the right thing” for the right reasons.

The Program Integrity department is designed to assist the organization to uphold our continued commitment in making proper and ethical decisions. The Program Integrity standards apply to officers, directors, employees and affiliated associates such as providers, vendors, and subcontractors. It consists of the following: policies and procedures, standards of professional conduct, compliance oversight, education and training, monitoring and auditing, enforcement and discipline, and detection and prevention of fraud, waste, and abuse.

If you have questions or concerns related to:

- Potential Fraud, Waste, or Abuse
- Standards of Professional conduct
- Confidentiality
- Notice of Privacy Practices
- Potential Conflicts of Interest
- HIPAA
- Or other regulatory requirements or laws, such as Sarbanes-Oxley and Stark Law

Call the Program Integrity Department: 1-800-727-7536
You can also call the Compliance Helpline: 1-800-620-1438, or go on-line to: https://www.compliancehelpline.com/WelcomePageVCUHS.jsp 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You may remain anonymous.

Corporate Compliance and Integrity Plan
Virginia Premier is committed to conducting all facets of its operations in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policies and procedures. Virginia Premier maintains a policy of “zero tolerance” for fraud, waste, and abuse in every aspect of our business.

Standards of Professional Conduct
Virginia Premier requires employees and affiliates to conduct business and personal activities in a manner that is ethically and legally responsible. The Standards of Professional Conduct outlines this commitment.

- Treat members with respect and dignity
- Deal openly and honestly with fellow employees, members, providers, representatives, agents, governmental entities, and others
- Adhere to federal and state laws, regulations and Virginia Premier policies in procedures in all business and personal dealings whether at work or outside of work
- Exercise discretion in the processing of claims regardless of provider, practitioner, and vendor source
• Notify and return overpayments to the health plan immediately upon receipt of such payments
• Notify the Program Integrity Officer of any instances of non-compliance and cooperate with all investigational efforts by Virginia Premier and other state and federal agencies
• Use supplies and services in an efficient manner to reduce cost to the health plan
• Do not misuse Virginia Premier resources nor influence in such a way as to discredit the reputation of Virginia Premier
• Maintain high standards of business and ethical conduct in accordance with regulatory and accredited agencies to include standards of business to address fraud, waste, and abuse
• Practice good faith in transactions occurring during the course of business
• Conduct business dealings in a manner that the organization shall be the beneficiary of such dealings
• Preserve patient confidentiality, unless there is written permission to divulge information, except as required by law
• Refuse any illegal offers, solicitations, payment or other enumeration to induce referrals of the members we serve for an item of service reimbursable by a third party
• Disclose financial interest/affiliations with outside entities to Virginia Premier as required by the Conflict of Interest Statement
• Hold all contracted parties to the same Standards of Professional Conduct as part of their dealings with Virginia Premier
• Notify the Program Integrity Officer of any instances of non-Compliance and cooperate with all investigation efforts by Virginia Premier and other state and federal agencies
• Providers providing services to CCC Plus waiver members shall comply with the provider requirements as established in the DMAS provider manuals available at https://www.virginiamedicaid.dmas.virginia.gov/wps/portal and the following regulations: 12 VAC 30-120-900 through 12 VAC 30-120-995.
• Providers of CCC Plus waiver services (including Adult Day Health Care [ADHC]) shall maintain compliance with the provisions of the CMS Home and Community Based Settings Rule as detailed in 42 CFR §441.301(c)(4) and (5)

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)

What is HIPAA? HIPAA is a federal privacy law enacted on August 21, 1996, that mandates health plans, providers and healthcare clearinghouses to take a greater care
in use and disclosure of protected health information (PHI).

**Who is impacted by HIPAA?** Health Plans, providers and healthcare clearinghouses are impacted by HIPAA.

**What does confidentiality mean?** Confidentiality means only discussing patient or member’s information with other staff or individuals on a “need-to-know” basis for the purpose of treatment, payment, or healthcare operations. Here are simple steps you can use to protect the privacy and security of patient health information:

1. Post your Notice of Privacy Practices in patient common areas
2. Make sure every patient reads and signs the Notice of Privacy Statement
3. Keep medical records in a restricted area and locked file cabinet
4. Make sure PHI is safely filed away at the end of each workday
5. Make sure computers are logged off or shut down according to company policy
6. Encourage staff to shred documents that are not part of patient record that contains protected health information
7. Use a fax coversheet and confirm fax numbers when faxing patient health information
8. Place the fax machine in a secure location away from public viewing
9. Conduct staff training on HIPAA policies and procedures
10. Designate a staff member to handle compliance and/or HIPAA concerns for your office
11. Establish a policy and procedure for computer and Internet usage
12. Establish a policy and procedure for release of medical records
13. Immediately terminate access for computer systems and obtain keys from terminated employees
14. Establish a policy to ensure all visitors check in at the front desk
15. Ensure computers are backed up daily
16. Ensure anti-virus software for computers is updated on a regular basis
17. Ensure computer passwords are changed at a minimum, every 90 days
18. Terminate an employee’s access to the facility and computers upon termination of employment

**What is Protected Health Information (PHI)?** PHI is a subset of health information including demographic information collected from an individual and is created or received by a healthcare provider, health plan, employer, or healthcare clearinghouse. Below is a sampling of PHI identifiers that covered entities deal with on a daily basis and must protect.

- Name
- Address
- Dates (date of birth, inpatient admission dates, discharge dates, date of death)
Uses and Disclosures of PHI
Covered entities are not required to obtain a member’s approval to use or disclose protected health information for Treatment, Payment and healthcare Operations (TPO).

Treatment – Provision, coordination, or management of health care and related services
Payment – Reimbursement for health care services, including billing and claim management
Healthcare Operations – Business activities of the organization, such as quality assessments & improvement activities, training programs, accreditation, licensing, credentialing, premium rating, legal services, business management, and general administrative activities.

Authorization is required for any use or disclosure other than TPO. Authorization is required for psychotherapy notes.

Other Permitted and Required Uses and Disclosures That May be Made Without a Patient’s Consent, Authorization or Opportunity to Object:

• Abuse and Neglect
• Business Associates
• Communicable Diseases
• Coroners, Medical Examiners, and Funeral Directors
• Organ and Tissue Donation
• Criminal Activity
• Food and Drug Administration
• Health Oversight
• Inmates
• Law Enforcement
• Legal Proceedings
• Military Activity and National Security
• Public Health
• Required Uses and Disclosures
• Research
• Required by Law
• Workers’ Compensation
Authorization must be obtained from the patient (Virginia Premier member) before you may use or disclose any PHI for reasons other than treatment, payment or healthcare operations, and in all cases involving psychotherapy notes.

**Patients’ Rights Regarding Medical Information about Them:**

**Right to Inspect and Copy** – Patients have the right to inspect and copy medical information that may be used to make decisions about their benefits. However, this does not include behavioral health management notes.

**Right to Amend** – Patients have the right to amend medical information about them that they feel is incorrect or incomplete. The request should be in writing and provide a reason that supports the request to amend.

**Right to an Accounting of Disclosures** – Patients have the right to request a list of disclosures made by the provider of medical information about them. The request should be in writing and specify the time period in question of the disclosures.

**Right to Request Restrictions** – Patients can request a restriction or limit on the medical information used or disclosed about their treatment, payment or health care operations. This restriction or limit includes information disclosed to someone who is involved in the patient’s care, like a family member or friend. The provider does not have to agree to any restrictions or limits to information.

**Right to Request Confidential Communications** – Patients have the right to request that a provider communicate with them about medical matters in a certain way or at a certain location. For example a patient may request that communication to them only be made at work or by mail.

**Right to be Notified of a Breach** – Patients have the right to be notified in the event the provider or their business associate discovers a breach of unsecured protected health information.

**Privacy Right to a Paper Copy of the Notice of Practices** – Patients have the right to receive a paper copy of the provider’s Notice of Privacy Practices.

**How Virginia Premier Protects Information about Members:**
Virginia Premier Elite Plus is dedicated to safeguarding members’ protected health information (PHI), and has established a number of policies and procedures to ensure their PHI is kept secure. The safeguards in place include the following:

- Requirement for proper written authorization to release PHI
- Providing only the minimum necessary information to accomplish the intended purpose
- Establishing rules and requirements to accept an individual designated as a personal representative
• Limiting how we use or disclose PHI
• Limiting who may see information about our members
• Password-protecting computers, and securing storage areas and filing cabinets
• Requiring employees to wear ID badges at all times, and requiring the use of ID badges to enter work areas
• Establishing policies and procedures related to record retention and proper disposal of PHI
• Requiring our business partners to sign a Business Associate Agreement to protect the privacy of data we share with them in the normal course of business
• Training our employees about company privacy and security policies and procedures

Health Information Technology for Economic & Clinical Health (HITECH) Act

The HITECH Act enacted into legislation as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) amended HIPAA as follows:

• Broadens the applicability of the HIPAA Privacy Rules and penalties to include business associates:
• Add specific obligations upon business associates and covered entities to provide certain notifications in the event the security of Protected Health Information (PHI) is breached;
• Clarifies that HIPAA's criminal sanctions apply to employees or other individuals that wrongfully use or access PHI held by a covered entity;
• Increases criminal and civil penalties for HIPAA Privacy Rule violators;
• Prohibits sale of PHI without written consent;
• Tightens certain HIPAA accounting for disclosure requirements;
• Expand the Business Associates Agreement requirements;
• Makes business associates directly liable for compliance with certain HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules;
• Expands individuals’ rights to receive electronic copies of their health information; and
• Establishes ‘Low Probability’ standard to determine the extent of a breach.

Breach Notification Requirements

The following steps must be taken in the event of a breach of unsecured protected health information:

• Perform a risk assessment to determine if there is a “low probability” that the PHI has been or will be compromised. The following four (4) factors must be assessed to determine the low probability of compromise:
  (1) The nature and extent of the PHI involved, including the types of identifiers and the likelihood of re-identification.
  (2) The unauthorized person who used the PHI or to whom the disclosure was made.
(3) Whether the PHI was actually acquired or viewed or whether the opportunity existed to acquire or view but actual viewing and acquiring did not occur.

(4) The extent to which the risk has been mitigated.

- All four of these factors must be addressed in the risk assessment to determine the level of compromise of PHI, and in all cases any breach involving Virginia Premier Elite Plus members must be reported to Virginia Premier Elite Plus. If there is NOT a low probability that PHI has been breached the following steps must be taken.

- **Methods of Notice:**
  - Notice to the individual(s) shall be provided promptly and by first class mail at the last known address of the individual or next of kin, or if specified by the individual by electronic mail. In the event there is insufficient or out-of-date contact information that precludes direct written notice, a substitute form of notice shall be provided. In the case where there is 10 or more individuals for which there is insufficient or out-of-date contact information, notification would be made on the provider's website. In any case deemed by the provider to require urgency because of the possible imminent misuse of unsecured PHI, the provider may provide information to individuals by telephone.
  - Notice shall be made to prominent media outlets serving the state, following the discovery of a breach, if unsecured PHI of more than 500 individuals in a single state or jurisdiction is, or is reasonably believed to have been accessed, acquired, or disclosed.
  - Notice shall be provided to the Secretary of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services of unsecured PHI that has been acquired or disclosed in a breach, if the breach involves 500 or more individuals. If the breach involves less than 500 individuals, the provider shall maintain a log of any such breach and annually submit the log to the Secretary.

- **Timeliness of Notification –** All notifications shall be made without unreasonable delay and in no case later than sixty (60) calendar days after discovery of the breach.

- **Content of Notification:**
  - A brief description of what happened, including the date of the breach and the date of the discovery of the breach, if known.
  - A description of the types of unsecured PHI that were involved in the breach.
  - The steps individuals should take to protect themselves from potential harm resulting from the breach.
  - A brief description of what the provider is doing to investigate the breach,
to mitigate losses, and to protect against further breaches.

- Contact information for individuals to ask questions or learn additional information.

**Understanding the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 (False Claims Act)**

**Background:** The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) mandates compliance programs for those institutions receiving $5 million or more annually in Medicaid payments. The DRAs False Claims Act Amendment is intended to reduce the amount of fraud, waste, and abuse in state and federal health care programs through employee education about the federal False Claims Act, state false claims acts, civil and criminal penalties, and protections from retaliation for those employees who report in good faith wrongdoings, misconduct, or violations of laws and regulations.

**Federal False Claims Act:** The federal False Claims Act covers fraud involving any federally funded contract or program such as Medicare or Medicaid and establishes liability for any person who knowingly presents or causes to be presented a false or fraudulent claim to the U.S. government for payment.

**Self-Disclosure of Overpayments:** Under the Affordable Care Act Section 6402(d), any provider of services or supplier who receives a payment under Medicare or Medicaid to which the person or entity, after applicable reconciliation, is not entitled, must return the funds within 60 days. The 60 day time limit begins from the time the provider/supplier identifies the overpayment or when the overpayment is brought to the attention of the provider/supplier by Virginia Premier Elite Plus.

Failure to report overpayments within the 60 day time requirement constitutes an obligation under the False Claims Act and could create a FCA liability.

**Virginia Fraud Against Taxpayers Act:** The Virginia Fraud Against Taxpayers Act is Virginia’s version of the federal False Claims Act and contains parallel provisions. This state law helps the Commonwealth combat fraud and abuse and recovers losses resulting from fraud in programs, purchases, and contracts.

**Federal False Claims Act Liability:** Violations of the False Claims Act can result in civil monetary penalties ranging from $5,000 to $10,000 for each false claim submitted and repayment of three times the amount of damages sustained by the U.S. government. A provider or supplier found in violation may also be excluded from participation in federal healthcare programs including Medicaid.

**Examples of fraud, waste, and abuse Committed by Employees:**

- Fabricating claims or changing provider addresses to intercept payments
- Providing false information on employment application
- Identity theft
- Accepting or offering a kickback or bribery in exchange for money
Examples of fraud, waste, and abuse Committed by Providers:

- Participating in kickbacks (payments or other types of compensation made in order to influence and gain profit from an individual or company).
- Forgery of a physician’s signature.
- Billing for medical services that were not given.
- Billing for undocumented or medically unnecessary services.
- Duplicate billing
- Assigning incorrect codes to secure a higher reimbursement (up coding)
- Unbundling codes with the intent to increase reimbursement

Examples of fraud, waste, and abuse Committed by Members:

- Loaning/sharing ID cards to obtain healthcare services or prescriptions
- "Doctor shopping" and excessive trips to the ER for control substances (narcotics).
- Falsifying information on application in order to receive benefits
- Falsifying or altering claims for reimbursement of services or prescriptions
- Falsifying or altering prescriptions to obtain prescriptions
- Reporting lost or stolen prescriptions which had been sold

Qui Tam Whistleblower Provisions: As a means to encourage individuals to come forward and report misconduct involving false claims, the False Claims Act's "whistleblower" provision allows any person with actual knowledge of allegedly false claims, who has first made a good faith effort to exhaust internal reporting procedures, to file a lawsuit on behalf of the government and potentially share in a percentage of the amount recovered.

No Retaliation: The Federal False Claims Act grants protection from retaliation for filing a lawsuit or assisting in a False Claims Act action. Virginia Premier Elite Plus policy prohibits any type of retaliation against those who report concerns. This policy works in conjunction with the Federal False Claims Act and the Virginia Fraud Against Taxpayers Act in protecting those who report misconduct.

Virginia Premier Elite Plus has established several mechanisms to detect and combat fraud and abuse. Our compliance and integrity program outlines auditing and monitoring techniques used to detect fraud, abuse and waste. Additional procedures and processes are established to audit and monitor activities at every level.

Auditing: In an ongoing effort to ensure quality services to our members and verify accurate billing practices of our providers, Virginia Premier Elite Plus conducts periodic unannounced reviews or audits. This includes reviewing medical records, claims and other documentation.
Excluded Entities and Individuals

In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations at 42 C.F.R. § 438-310; C.F.R. § 1002; and 12 VAC 30-10-690 of the Virginia Administrative Code, Virginia Premier is prohibited from participating with or entering into a provider agreement with any individual or entity that has been excluded from participation in federal healthcare programs. Additionally, Virginia Premier is prohibited from contracting with any provider who has been terminated from a state Medicaid program, FAMIS, or Medicare for fraud, waste or abuse.

Likewise, under federal and state laws and regulations providers who receive reimbursement from Virginia Premier are prohibited from employing, doing business with, or entering into a contract with excluded individuals or entities. Providers are required to use the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) online exclusion database, available at http://exclusions.oig.hhs.gov/ to screen managing employees, physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, and contractors to determine whether any of them have been excluded from federal healthcare programs. The screening should be done prior to hire or contract signing and monthly thereafter.

In the event a provider, a provider’s employees as stipulated above, or contractor is excluded, debarred, suspended or otherwise determined to be, or identified as, ineligible to participate in federal healthcare programs, or is listed on the OIG List of Excluded Individuals and Entities (LEIE), this agreement will, at the sole option of Virginia Premier, immediately terminate.

To ensure compliance, all providers shall implement a procedure for LEIE screening on no less than a monthly basis for all managing employees, physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, and contractors. Upon reasonable request, providers shall provide written verification of such screenings.

Affirmative Statements and Incentives

Virginia Premier affirms the following regarding utilization management (UM) practices:

- UM decisions are based only on appropriateness of care and service and the existence of coverage;
- Practitioners or other individuals are not rewarded for issuing denials of coverage or service care; and
- UM decision makers do not receive financial incentives to encourage decisions that result in underutilization.
- Practitioners may freely communicate with patients about their treatment, regardless of benefit coverage.
**Abuse** (i) use of health services by recipients which is inconsistent with sound fiscal or medical practices and that results in unnecessary costs to the Virginia Medical program or in reimbursement for a level of use or pattern of services that is not medically necessary, or (ii) provider practices which are inconsistent with sound fiscal or medical practices and that result in (a) unnecessary costs to the Virginia Medicaid program, or (b) reimbursement for a level of use or a pattern of services that is not medically necessary or that fails to meet professionally recognized standards for healthcare.

**Appeal** A request from a member, attending physician, provider or facility to reconsider a decision made by Virginia Premier Elite Plus to reduce or deny covered services.

**Authorization** The process of obtaining prior approval from the health plan before rendering specified services or procedures to a member.

**Centers for Services (CMS) Medicare & Medicaid** The federal agency of the United States Department of Health and Human Services that is responsible for the administration of Title XIX and Title XXI of the Social Security Act. CMS provides program oversight for Medicaid Managed Care.

**Claim** An itemized statement of services rendered by healthcare providers (such as hospitals, physicians, dentists, etc.) billed electronically or on HCFA 1500 UB 04.

**Clean Claim** A claim that has no defect or impropriety (including any lack of any required substantiating documentation) or particular circumstance requiring special treatment that prevents timely payments from being made on the claim under this title 1816 (c)(2)(b) and 1842(c)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act.

**Complaint** Any oral or written communication made by or on behalf of a member expressing dissatisfaction with any aspect of the Health Plans, providers, or State’s operation, activities or behavior regardless of whether a remedial action is requested.

**Co-payment** The member’s portion of the payment due at the time of service.

**DMAS** Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) administers a number of programs in the State to assist needy Virginians. These programs include the Medicaid Program, the Indigent Health Care Trust Fund, the State and Local Hospital Program and the Family Access to Medical Insurance Security Plan (FAMIS).
**DSS**

Department of Social Services (DSS).

**Emergency**

A medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) that a prudent lay-person who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in placing the health of the individual (or with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child) in serious jeopardy, serious impairment to body functions, or serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

**Enrollment Broker**

An independent broker who enrolls recipients in the Medicaid HMO plans, and who is responsible for the operation and documentation of a toll free recipient service helpline. The responsibilities of the enrollment broker include, but are not limited to, recipient education and enrollment and may include recipient marketing and outreach.

**Fee for Service**

The traditional healthcare payment system in which physicians and other providers receive a payment for each unit of service they provide. This payment is contrasted with capitation, which pays per person, not per service.

**Fraud**

Intentional deception or misrepresentation made by a person or entity with the knowledge that the deception could result in payment of an unauthorized benefit.

**Grievance**

Any Complaint or dispute, other than one that constitutes an organization determination under 42 C.F.R. § 422.566, expressing dissatisfaction with any aspect of the Contractor’s or Provider’s operations, activities, or behavior, regardless of whether remedial action is requested pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 422.561. Possible subjects for Grievances include, but are not limited to, quality of care or services provided, aspects of interpersonal relationships such as rudeness of a Primary Care Provider or employee of the Contractor, or failure to respect the Member’s rights, as provided for in 42 C.F.R. § 438.400. Grievances are overseen by the Virginia Premier Elite Plus Continuous Quality Improvement Committee (CQIC) and are related to the availability, delivery or quality of healthcare services including the utilization review decisions that are adverse to the member or the payment or reimbursement of healthcare service claims.
| **HMO** | Health Maintenance Organization (HMO). A medical care organization to deliver and finance healthcare services to its members for a fixed prepaid premium. A primary care physician must provide or authorize all services provided to members. Members must use in-network physicians. |
| **Health Risk Assessment (HRA)** | A comprehensive assessment of a Member’s medical, psychosocial, cognitive, and functional status in order to determine their medical, behavioral health, LTSS and social needs. |
| **Interdisciplinary Care Plan (ICP)** | A plan, primarily directed by the Member, and family members of the Member as appropriate, with the assistance of the Member's Interdisciplinary Care Team to meet the medical, behavioral, long term care and supports and social needs of the Member. |
| **Interdisciplinary Care Team (ICT)** | A team of professionals that collaborate, either in person or through other means, with the Member to develop and implement an Individualized Care Plan that meets their medical, behavioral, long term care and supports and social needs. ICTs may include physicians, physician assistants, long-term care providers, nurses, specialists, pharmacists, behavior health specialists, and/or social workers appropriate for the Member’s medical diagnoses and health condition, co-morbidities, and community support needs. ICTs employ both medical and social models of care. |
| **Managed Care** | Use of a planned and coordinated approach to provide healthcare with the goal of quality care at a lower cost. Usually emphasizes preventive care and often associated with an HMO. |
| **Medicaid** | Medicaid is a Federal-State medical assistance program under Title XIX of the Social Security Act and various Demonstrations and waivers thereof that arranges for and administers reimbursement for reasonable and necessary medical care for persons meeting both medical and financial eligibility requirements. DMAS administers the Medicaid program in Virginia. |
| **Medical Necessity** | Services sufficient in amount, duration, scope and environment to improve health status. |
### Medicare
Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, the federal health insurance program for people age 65 or older, people under 65 with certain disabilities, and people with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) or Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. Medicare Part A provides coverage of inpatient hospital services and services of other institutional providers, such as skilled nursing facilities and home health agencies. Medicare Part B provides supplementary medical insurance that covers physician services, outpatient services, some home health care, durable medical equipment, and laboratory services and supplies, generally for the diagnosis and treatment of illness or injury. Medicare Part C provides Medicare member’s with the option of receiving Part A and Part B services through a private health plan. Medicare Part D provides outpatient prescription drug benefits.

### Member
An individual who is eligible for Medicaid/FAMIS Plus and who is currently enrolled with Virginia Premier Elite Plus. All members are assigned a PCP to provide and/or coordinate all healthcare services.

### Minimum Data Set
Part of the federally-mandated process for assessing individuals receiving care in certified skilled nursing facilities in order to record their overall health status regardless of payer source. The process provides a comprehensive assessment of individuals’ current health conditions, treatments, abilities and plans for discharge. The MDS is administered to all residents upon admission, quarterly, yearly and whenever there is a significant change in an individual’s condition.

### Model of Care (MOC)
The Model of Care is a specific outline of care management processes designed and regulated to provide the best possible care and services for members participating in a designated program.

### NCQA
National Committee on Quality Assurance. A not-for-profit organization performing accreditation review of managed care plans.

### Network Provider
The healthcare entity or healthcare professional that has a contract with Virginia Premier Elite Plus or its subcontractor to render covered services to members.

### Non-par Provider
Non-participating Provider – a healthcare entity or healthcare provider who is not contracted with Virginia Premier Elite Plus to provide services to members. Often referred to as an “out of network” provider.
Options

One of three managed care programs administered by DMAS. Options are a voluntary Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) enrollment program. Recipients may choose between a Medallion PCP or enrollment in a Medicaid HMO to provide their health care needs.

PCP

Primary Care Physician (PCP) - A generalist trained physician in Internal Medicine, Family Practice, Pediatrics or OB/Gyn, who is responsible for providing the majority of care to individuals and providing case management when additional services are required.

Urgent Care

A medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that the absence of medical attention within twenty-four hours (24) could reasonably be expected to result in:

- Placing the patient’s health in serious jeopardy
- Serious impairment to bodily function; or
- Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.