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December 30, 2022

Performance Audit  
Recommendations and  
Corrective Actions for Audit:  
19-02

MEDICAID DR. DYNASAUR  
PROGRAM

Department of Vermont Health  
Access Does Not Monitor or  
Take Required Action on  
Overdue Premium Payments

Dated: April 10, 2019

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# Overview

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The State Auditor's Office (SAO) makes recommendations designed to improve the operations of state government. For our work to produce benefits, auditees or the General Assembly must implement these recommendations, although we cannot require them to do so. Nevertheless, a measure of the quality and persuasiveness of our performance audits is the extent to which these recommendations are accepted and acted upon. The greater the number of recommendations that are implemented, the more benefit will be derived from our audit work.

In 2010, the SAO began to follow-up on the recommendations issued in our performance audits. Experience has shown that it takes time for some recommendations to be implemented. For this reason, we perform our follow-up activities one and three years after the calendar year in which the audit report is issued. Our annual performance reports summarize whether we are meeting our recommendation implementation targets.

<http://auditor.vermont.gov/about-us/strategic-plans-and-performance-reports>

This report addresses the requirements of Act 155 (2012) to post the results of our recommendation follow-up work on our website. The report does not include follow-up on recommendations issued as part of the state's financial statement audit and the federally mandated Single Audit, which are performed by a contractor. However, our current contract for this work requires the contractor to provide the results of its recommendation follow-up.

Rec #	Recommendation	Follow-Up Date	Status	Review Comments
1	Develop and implement a process to monitor the amount of Dr. Dynasaur premiums that are due to the State, including the amount unpaid.	2020	Not Implemented	DVHA reports that they will implement this recommendation after they complete changes to the billing system. The changes are scheduled to be completed in 2022.
		2022	Not Implemented	DVHA reports that they have not implemented this recommendations because the State has halted Dr. Dynasaur premiums for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency and the subsequent 12-14 month unwind period. On October 13, 2022, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services renewed an extension of the COVID-19 public health emergency until January 11, 2023. DVHA does not intend to address this recommendations until after the COVID-19 public health emergency has ended.
2	Develop and implement a mechanism, in accordance with HBEE rules, to disenroll members whose premiums go unpaid.	2020	Not Implemented	DVHA reports that they have not implemented this recommendation since the State has halted Dr. Dynasaur premiums for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency, as approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. After DVHA completes the changes to the billing system in 2022, the department plans to review implementing this recommendation.
		2022	Not Implemented	DVHA reports that they have not implemented this recommendations because the State has halted Dr. Dynasaur premiums for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency and the subsequent 12-14 month unwind period. On October 13, 2022, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services renewed an extension of the COVID-19 public health emergency until January 11, 2023. DVHA does not intend to address this recommendations until after the COVID-19 public health emergency has ended.
3	Correct the flaws that allow a member to enroll without meeting the initial premium payment requirement.	2020	Not Implemented	DVHA reports that they have not implemented this recommendation since the State has halted Dr. Dynasaur premiums for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency, as approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. DVHA plans to implement this recommendation once the changes to the billing system are completed in 2022.
		2022	Not Implemented	DVHA reports that they have not implemented this recommendations because the State has halted Dr. Dynasaur premiums for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency and the subsequent 12-14 month unwind period. On October 13, 2022, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services renewed an extension of the COVID-19 public health emergency until January 11, 2023. DVHA does not intend to address this recommendations until after the COVID-19 public health emergency has ended.