

Prescribing and Dispensing Information for PDE Type 5 Inhibitors for the Treatment of Erectile Dysfunction VHA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services, Medical Advisory Panel, and VISN Pharmacists Executives

The following recommendations are based on current medical evidence, clinician input, and expert opinion. The content of the document is dynamic and will be revised as new information becomes available. The purpose of this document is to assist practitioners in clinical decision-making, to standardize and improve the quality of patient care, and to promote cost-effective drug prescribing. The clinician should utilize this guidance and interpret it in the clinical context of the individual patient situation. Individual cases that are outside the recommendations should be adjudicated at the local facility according to the policy and procedures of its P&T Committee and Pharmacy Services.

Sildenafil and tadalafil (PA-F) are available in VHA and on the VA National Formulary for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED). Avanafil and vardenafil are non-formulary.

It is the responsibility of the prescribing clinician to ensure the patient has no contraindications to sildenafil, tadalafil, or the PDE5 inhibitor being prescribed, and that the patient understands the choices for the treatment of ED and the associated potential risks and benefits.

In the interest of patient safety, VA will only honor PDE5 inhibitor prescriptions written by VA prescribers after an appropriate clinical evaluation. In addition, associated with the clinical evaluation, the following also apply:

- Sildenafil (and other PDE5 inhibitors) prescriptions used for the management of ED are limited to 6 doses per month. Quantities less than 6 doses per month are to be dispensed only at the request of the patient or prescriber. Greater quantities may be approved when requested and justified on a case-by-case basis (e.g., couples trying to conceive, veterans with an inconsistent response to PDE5 inhibitors). This quantity limit **does not** apply to patients taking sildenafil (or another PDE 5 inhibitor) for the management of pulmonary hypertension.
- Lost prescriptions will not be replaced in the time period they are intended for, a refill, if authorized, will be made available at the next scheduled refill date.
- In addition, any adverse event that occurs with sildenafil or another PDE5 inhibitor should be reported in the VA Adverse Drug Event Reporting System (VA ADERS). The link for VA ADERS is: [DVA MedSafe](#)

Updated versions may be found at [PBM INTRANet](#) or <http://www.pbm.va.gov>

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