

# Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

## Louisiana

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 76,200<sup>1</sup>



Grade	Summary
C	<p><b>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions:</b> Fee-For-Service (FFS) requires severe liver damage (F3 or greater) for beneficiaries infected with hepatitis C (HCV), but imposes no liver damage requirements for beneficiaries coinfecting with HCV and HIV. Five Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) – Aetna Better Health, AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana, Healthy Blue, Louisiana Healthcare Connections, and UnitedHealthcare – maintain the same requirements.</p> <p><b>Sobriety Restrictions:</b> FFS and the five MCOs require beneficiaries to attest that they have not been “actively participating” in substance and/or alcohol abuse.</p> <p><b>Prescriber Restrictions:</b> FFS and the five MCOs impose no prescriber restrictions.</p> <p><b>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove liver damage restrictions for all beneficiaries.</li> <li>• Remove sobriety attestation requirement for all beneficiaries.</li> </ul> <p><i>Grade Rationale: Louisiana’s FFS and MCO programs have removed prescriber restrictions and eased restrictions based on sobriety. Although Louisiana has lifted its fibrosis requirement for beneficiaries coinfecting with HCV and HIV, its severe liver damage requirements for beneficiaries infected with HCV remain intact. These restrictions significantly impede access to treatment for beneficiaries with HCV.</i></p>

### Background

As of June 2017, Louisiana had 1,448,253 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program.<sup>2</sup> Louisiana Medicaid, known as Healthy Louisiana, operates a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program and contracts with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).<sup>3</sup> Most beneficiaries, 70 percent, are enrolled in a MCO; the remaining 30 percent participate in FFS.<sup>4</sup> Healthy Louisiana contracts with five MCOs to provide services to beneficiaries, including: Aetna Better Health (Aetna), AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana (AmeriHealth), Healthy Blue, Louisiana Healthcare Connections, and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan (UHC).<sup>5</sup>

### State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

Louisiana Medicaid FFS and MCOs impose some restrictions to hepatitis C (HCV) treatments. The state requires prescribers to submit a *Clinical Pre-Authorization Form* and a *Hepatitis C Therapy Treatment Agreement* signed by the beneficiary.<sup>6</sup> FFS requires severe liver damage (F3 or greater) unless the beneficiary is coinfecting with HCV and HIV.<sup>7</sup> Beneficiaries coinfecting with HCV and HIV are not subject to liver damage restrictions.<sup>8</sup> A beneficiary and their prescribing physician must sign an attestation form confirming that the beneficiary “has not been actively participating in substance abuse and/or alcohol abuse.”<sup>9</sup>

A beneficiary must sign and commit to other requirements laid out in the *Treatment Agreement*.<sup>10</sup> These commitments include being adherent, informing the prescriber and pharmacist of other prescribed medications, and acknowledging that missed doses can result in Medicaid not paying for treatment.<sup>11</sup> FFS does not impose prescriber restrictions.<sup>12</sup>

In revising its HCV treatment policies in May 2018, the Louisiana Department of Health required all MCOs to comply with the FFS policy.<sup>13</sup> Each MCO has accordingly updated their treatment criteria to align with the FFS policies.<sup>14</sup>

### Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

Louisiana FFS and its five MCOs require severe liver damage (F3 or greater) unless the beneficiary is coinfecting with HCV and HIV.<sup>15</sup> Liver damage restrictions do not apply to beneficiaries who are coinfecting with HCV and HIV.<sup>16</sup>

### Sobriety Restrictions

Louisiana FFS and its five MCOs require beneficiaries to submit an attestation form confirming that they have not been “actively participating in substance abuse and/or alcohol abuse.”<sup>17</sup> The form must be signed by the beneficiary and the prescriber.<sup>18</sup>

## Prescriber Restrictions

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Louisiana FFS and its five MCOs do not impose prescriber requirements.<sup>19</sup>

## Points of Contact for Questions & Concerns about Louisiana’s State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Access

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<sup>1</sup> Louisiana, State Profile, HepVu (Accessed August 2017): <https://hepvu.org/state/louisiana/>

<sup>2</sup> Medicaid and CHIP in Louisiana, By-State, Medicaid.gov (Accessed August 2017): <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=louisiana>

<sup>3</sup> Healthy Louisiana, Louisiana Department of Health (Accessed August 2017): <http://ldh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/subhome/48>

<sup>4</sup> Share of Medicaid Population Covered Under Different Delivery Systems, Medicaid Managed Care Market Tracker, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, July 1, 2016 (Accessed August 2017): <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/share-of-medicaid-population-covered-under-different-delivery-systems/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22collid%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

<sup>5</sup> Compare Plans, Healthy Louisiana (Accessed August 2017): <https://www.myplan.healthy.la.gov/choose/compare-plans>; See also: Managed Care Access Monitoring Framework, Louisiana Department of Health (Accessed August 2017): [http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/BayouHealth/Monthly\\_Reports/2017April/125A-EnrollmentbyHealthPlanandRegion03-2017.pdf](http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/BayouHealth/Monthly_Reports/2017April/125A-EnrollmentbyHealthPlanandRegion03-2017.pdf); Note: Amerigroup changed its name to Healthy Blue see: <https://providers.healthyblue.com/la/pages/home.aspx>

<sup>6</sup> Memorandum: Direct Acting Antiviral (DAA) Agents Used to Treat Chronic Hepatitis C Virus (HCV), Treatment Agreement for Louisiana Medicaid Fee-For-Service (FFS) Recipients, Revised 4/18/18, available at: [http://www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/Forms/HepC\\_Treatment\\_Agreement.pdf](http://www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/Forms/HepC_Treatment_Agreement.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> Memorandum: Louisiana Fee for Service (FFS) Medicaid and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Direct Acting Antiviral (DAA) Agents Clinical Prior and Pre-Authorization Criteria Revision, From: Jen Steele, Medicaid Director, To: All Louisiana Medicaid Providers, April 24, 2018, available at [http://www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/Pharmacy/Hep\\_C\\_Criteria\\_Revision\\_Letter\\_4-24-18.pdf](http://www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/Pharmacy/Hep_C_Criteria_Revision_Letter_4-24-18.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. Memorandum: Direct Acting Antiviral (DAA) Agents Used to Treat Chronic Hepatitis C Virus (HCV), Treatment Agreement for Louisiana Medicaid Fee-For-Service (FFS) Recipients.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid. Memorandum: Louisiana Fee for Service (FFS) Medicaid and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Direct Acting Antiviral (DAA) Agents Clinical Prior and Pre-Authorization Criteria Revision.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid. See also: Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Direct-Acting Antiviral (DAA) Agents: Managed care Organizations (MCOs) and Fee for Services (FFS) Medicaid Hepatitis C Direct-Acting Antiviral Agents Treatment Criteria & Forms, available at <http://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/3046>; Direct-Acting Antiviral (DAA) Agents Used to Treat Chronic Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)

Prior Authorization Criteria for Louisiana Fee for Service and MCO Medicaid Recipients (Healthy Blue), available at <https://fm.formularynavigator.com/FormularyNavigator/DocumentManager/Download?clientDocumentId=MhdsevKbs0mF-RtlaLEg6g>.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Louisiana, Medicaid Directors, National Association of Medicaid Directors (Accessed August 2017): <http://medicaiddirectors.org/about/medicaid-directors/>

<sup>21</sup> Medicaid Pharmaceutical & Therapeutics Committee, Directory, Medicaid, Louisiana Department of Health (Accessed August 2017): <http://dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/directory/detail/697>