Maine

**Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 11,200**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Summary</th>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Maine requests a patient’s liver damage but does not stipulate any requirements.</td>
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<td>Sobriety Restrictions: Maine requires six months abstinence from alcohol and drugs.</td>
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<td>Prescriber Restrictions: Maine requires a prescription be written by or in consultation with a prescriber.</td>
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</tbody>
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|       | **Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:**  
|       | • Remove sobriety and prescriber requirements.  
|       | • Maintain transparency regarding hepatitis C coverage criteria. |

**Grade Rationale:** While Maine has no liver damage restrictions, it requires a prescription to be written by or in consultation with a prescriber and has an unacceptable six months sobriety requirement. The onerous sobriety requirement deters many individuals from accessing treatment and fails to address the public health impact of hepatitis C on the state’s opioid crisis. In recognition of the lack of liver damage restrictions, a “plus” has been added to the state’s “D” grade.

**Background**

Maine’s Medicaid program is called MaineCare. As of March 2017, MaineCare had 267,252 beneficiaries enrolled in Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). All MaineCare beneficiaries participate in the Primary Care Case Management (PCCM) program which works like a Fee-For-Service (FFS) model. Under the PCCM program, beneficiaries either choose or are assigned to a primary care provider (doctor, nurse, physician assistant or health care clinic) to manage their care. Maine does not contract with any Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).

**State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access**

MaineCare requires prior authorization (PA) to access hepatitis C treatment. Coverage requirements apply to all beneficiaries. MaineCare does not stipulate any liver damage requirements on the PA form. A prescription may be written by or in consultation with a specialist. MaineCare has significantly limited access by requiring six months sobriety from alcohol and substance use. MaineCare also imposes quantity and treatment duration limits. PA is approved initially for up to 12 weeks of therapy and only a 14-day-supply is allowed for the first prescription fill. Additionally, documentation of adherence (viral load changes or progress notes with a documented compliance discussion) are required to secure approval for continuation of therapy beyond 12 weeks and must be submitted with the PA request prior to completing the third month of therapy. The Preferred Drug List (PDL) includes preferred Direct-Acting Antiviral (DAA) regimens: Epclusa, Harvoni, Olysio, Sovaldi, Technivie, Viekira PAK, Viekira XR and Zepatier; and non-preferred regimens: Daklinza. The PA is detailed regarding how to prescribe each medication according to a patient’s genotype and other considerations.

**Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions**

MaineCare requests the patient’s liver damage but does not stipulate any requirements.

**Sobriety Restrictions**

MaineCare requires six months of sobriety from alcohol and substance use. The prescriber must submit his or her notes documenting that the beneficiary has abstained. Additionally, the prescriber must submit a urine drug screen for patients with a history of alcohol or substance use and counseling must be provided and documented. Education must be provided on how to prevent hepatitis C transmission.
Hepatitis C:
State of Medicaid Access | 2017 | 2

Prescriber Restrictions

MaineCare requires a prescription written by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist, hepatologist, infectious disease specialist or other hepatitis specialist. If the prescriber is not one of the previously listed specialists, he or she must have had the consultation within the past year and provide documentation of the recommended regimen.

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

MaineCare:
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11 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0011; Telephone: (207) 624-6948; Email Address: Jill.Kingsbury@maine.gov

1 HepVu, Maine State Profile: https://hepvu.org/state/maine/
3 Share of Medicaid Population Covered Under Different Delivery Systems, State Health Facts, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation (Updated July 2016): http://kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/share-of-medicaid-population-covered-under-different-delivery-systems/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D
4 MaineCare Member Handbook, MaineCare Services, Office of the Department of Health and Human Services, Spring 2017
6 Ibid. MaineCare/MEDEL Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, DHHS, State of Maine (Updated: October 2016)
7 Ibid. MaineCare/MEDEL Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, DHHS, State of Maine (Updated: October 2016)
8 Ibid. MaineCare/MEDEL Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, DHHS, State of Maine (Updated: October 2016)
9 Ibid. MaineCare/MEDEL Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, DHHS, State of Maine (Updated: October 2016)
10 Ibid. MaineCare/MEDEL Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, DHHS, State of Maine (Updated: October 2016)
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13 Ibid. MaineCare/MEDEL Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, DHHS, State of Maine (Updated: October 2016)
14 Ibid. MaineCare/MEDEL Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, DHHS, State of Maine (Updated: October 2016)
15 Ibid. MaineCare/MEDEL Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, DHHS, State of Maine (Updated: October 2016)
16 Ibid. MaineCare/MEDEL Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, DHHS, State of Maine (Updated: October 2016)
17 Ibid. MaineCare/MEDEL Prior Authorization Form, Hepatitis C Treatment, DHHS, State of Maine (Updated: October 2016)
19 Ibid. MaineCare Services, Contact Information (Accessed May 2017): http://www.mainecarepdl.org/content/contact-information