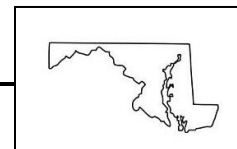


Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Maryland

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 82,000¹



Grade	Summary
C	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Fee-For-Service (FFS) requires at least moderate liver damage (F2 or greater). Five Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), Amerigroup Community Care, Jai Medical Systems, Maryland Physicians Care, MedStar Family Choice and University of Maryland Health Partners, also require at least moderate liver damage (F2 or greater). One MCO, UnitedHealthcare, requires severe liver damage (F3 or greater). One MCO, Priority Partners, has unclear liver damage criteria. One MCO, Kaiser Permanente, does not have publicly available hepatitis C coverage criteria.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: FFS requires screening for active alcohol and substance use. Six MCOs, Amerigroup Community Care, Jai Medical Systems, Maryland Physicians Care, MedStar Family Choice, Priority Partners and University of Maryland Health Partners, also require screening for active substance use. One MCO, UnitedHealthcare, requires 30 days sobriety confirmed by a negative urine screen. One MCO, Kaiser Permanente, does not have publicly available hepatitis C coverage criteria.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: FFS requires a prescription to be written by or in consultation with a specialist. Five MCOs, Amerigroup Community Care, Jai Medical Systems, Maryland Physicians Care, MedStar Family Choice, and University of Maryland Health Partners, require a prescription to be written by or in consultation with a specialist. One MCO, Priority Partners, has unclear prescriber requirements. One MCO, UnitedHealthcare, requires a specialist to prescribe. One MCO, Kaiser Permanente, does not have publicly available hepatitis C coverage criteria.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate liver damage, sobriety and prescribing requirements. • Achieve hepatitis C coverage parity across FFS and MCOs and ensure hepatitis C coverage transparency by all MCOs. <p><i>Grade Rationale: Maryland Medicaid FFS and MCOs provide some access to hepatitis C medications. FFS requires at least moderate liver damage (F2 or greater), screening for active substance use and a specialist to prescribe or consult. Most MCOs impose the same requirements. However, one MCO enforces more strict requirements including severe liver damage (F3 or greater), 30 days sobriety confirmed by a negative drug screen and a specialist to prescribe. Some plans are not fully transparent or clear about their requirements. Transparency needs improvement to have a complete understanding of hepatitis C medication access in Maryland.</i></p>

Background

As of June 2017, Maryland had 1,295,880 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP.² Maryland’s Medicaid program, known as Medical Assistance, operates a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program and contracts with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) known as HealthChoice.³ Most beneficiaries, 80 percent, are enrolled in HealthChoice, a statewide mandatory MCO program. The remaining 20 percent participate in FFS.⁴ HealthChoice contracts with 8 health insurance plans including Amerigroup Community Care (Amerigroup), Jai Medical Systems (Jai), Kaiser Permanente (Kaiser), Maryland Physicians Care (MPC), MedStar Family Choice (MedStar), Priority Partners, University of Maryland (UM) Health Partners (formerly Riverside), and UnitedHealthcare (UHC).⁵

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

Maryland FFS has moderate access to hepatitis C therapies. FFS requires prior authorization (PA).⁶ A beneficiary must have at least moderate liver damage (F2 or greater) to qualify for treatment.⁷ The PA asks if the patient has “an active diagnosis of a substance use disorder.”⁸ The PA also inquires if the beneficiary is actively engaged in treatment and, if not, then whether the prescriber has conducted an adherence assessment to assure successful treatment completion.⁹ It appears that FFS requires a prescription to be written by or in consultation with a specialist: “It is required that the patient have a treatment plan developed by, or in collaboration with, a provider with expertise in Hepatitis C management.”¹⁰ Additionally, a prescriber must conduct a pre-treatment evaluation that includes: “previous hepatitis C treatment history and outcome; HIV status and, if HIV positive, current antiretroviral regimen and the degree of viral suppression; adherence evaluation; and drug resistance testing.”¹¹ If the “patient or [his/her] partner is of childbearing age, at least two forms of contraception must be used (by the patient or their partner) if a RBV -containing regimen is prescribed throughout the duration of

therapy and for six months after the regimen is completed.”¹² The PA form further states that “adherence with prescribed therapy is a condition for payment.”¹³ An additional requirement for payment is the prescriber must obtain “a quantitative HCV viral load between two to four weeks of [treatment]. . . all patients should also have a quantitative HCV viral load at the completion of therapy and 12 weeks following the completion of therapy to assess for cure.”¹⁴ Maryland FFS Preferred Drug List (PDL) includes Daklinza, Epclusa, Harvoni, Sovaldi, Technivie, Viekira XR, ViekiraPak and Zepatier.¹⁵ The non-preferred agent is Olysio.¹⁶

Amerigroup requires PA and imposes the similar coverage requirements as FFS.¹⁷ A beneficiary must have at least moderate liver damage (F2 or greater).¹⁸ The PA form indicates that screening is required to determine if the patient has “an active diagnosis of a substance use disorder.”¹⁹ The PA also inquires if the beneficiary is actively engaged in treatment and, if not, then whether the prescriber has conducted an adherence assessment to assure successful treatment completion.²⁰ It appears that Amerigroup requires a specialist to prescribe or consult, as a treatment plan must be developed by or in collaboration with a provider with expertise treating hepatitis C.²¹ The prescriber must complete an adherence assessment.²² The PA form further states that “adherence with prescribed therapy is a condition for payment.”²³ Amerigroup also provides the same *Hepatitis C Sample Treatment Plan* and *State Hepatitis C Retreatment Form* as FFS.²⁴ Amerigroup’s preferred Direct-Acting Antivirals (DAAs) are Epclusa, Sovaldi and Zepatier.²⁵

Jai requires PA and imposes the same requirements as FFS.²⁶ The plan also utilizes the same PA form as FFS. A beneficiary must have at least moderate liver damage (F2 or greater) and screening and counseling for alcohol and substance use.²⁷ A specialist must prescribe or consult.²⁸ Additionally, a prescriber must conduct a pre-treatment evaluation that includes: “previous hepatitis C treatment history and outcome; HIV status and if HIV positive, current antiretroviral regimen and degree of viral suppression; adherence evaluation; and drug resistance testing.”²⁹ Each beneficiary must “have a treatment plan developed by, or in collaboration with, a provider with expertise in hepatitis C management.”³⁰ Finally, if the “patient or [his/her] partner is of childbearing age, at least two forms of contraception must be used (by the patient or their partner) if a RBV -containing regimen is prescribed throughout the duration of therapy and for six months after the regimen is completed.”³¹ Jai also requires the beneficiary to sign a *Hepatitis C Treatment and Medical Records Release Agreement Form* committing the individual to having lab work, releasing medical records, following prescriber instructions, taking medication as directed and participating in hepatitis C case management.³² Jai’s preferred DAAs are Epclusa (Genotypes 2, 3, 5 & 6) and Zepatier (Genotypes 1 and 4).³³

Kaiser requires PA. Kaiser includes all the DAAs on its formulary: Epclusa, Daklinza, Harvoni, Olysio, Sovaldi, Technivie, Viekira XR, Viekira Pak and Zepatier.³⁴ Kaiser does not provide any other hepatitis C coverage information publicly.³⁵

MPC, MedStar, and UM Health Partners require PA and impose FFS coverage requirements.³⁶ All three MCOS utilize the Maryland Department of Health’s (MDH) PA and clinical criteria. MPC’s website links directly to MDH’s webpage for the hepatitis C coverage criteria.³⁷ MedStar’s website states “the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) has developed clinical criteria for appropriate use of hepatitis C medications. [MedStar] will follow these criteria in considering requests for treatment. The MDH and [MedStar] expect strict adherence.”³⁸ UM Health Partners’ website also directs prescribers to DHMH website “to find current DHMH Clinical Criteria, measures of liver fibrosis, Treatment Plan, DHMH PA form, and viral load clarification.”³⁹ MPC, MedStar and UM Health Partners require beneficiaries to have at least moderate liver damage (F2 or greater) to qualify for treatment.⁴⁰ The DMH PA form indicates that screening is required to determine if a patient has an “active diagnosis of a substance use disorder.”⁴¹ The PA also inquires if beneficiaries are actively engaged in treatment and, if not, then whether the prescriber has conducted an adherence assessment to assure successful treatment completion.⁴² The FFS PA that MPC, MedStar and UM Health Partners utilize implies that a prescription must be written by or in consultation with as specialist.⁴³ The plans also impose the same additional requirements as FFS including that the prescriber conduct a pre-treatment evaluation, and “develop a treatment plan by or in collaboration with a provider with expertise in hepatitis C management.”⁴⁴ The PA further state that “adherence with prescribed therapy is a condition for payment of therapy.”⁴⁵ MPC’s formulary includes Harvoni and Sovaldi.⁴⁶ MedStar’s formulary includes Epclusa and Harvoni.⁴⁷ UM Health Partners includes the following DAAs on its PDL: Epclusa, Harvoni, Olysio, Sovaldi, and Zepatier.⁴⁸ Medstar includes Epclusa and Harvoni on its PDL.⁴⁹

Priority Partners requires PA and appears to apply the same coverage criteria as FFS. However, the liver damage requirements are unclear: while the PA form asks for the patient’s fibrosis level, no minimum is specified.⁵⁰ Priority Partners requires screening for an active substance use disorder.⁵¹ The plan’s prescribing requirements are unclear.⁵² Prescribers must establish a treatment plan and screen for non-adherence.⁵³ The PA form further states that “adherence with prescribed therapy is a condition for payment of therapy.”⁵⁴ Hepatitis C RNA levels are required at weeks four, 12 and, if applicable, 24 weeks.⁵⁵ Beneficiaries must be screened for HIV coinfection and past solid organ transplants.⁵⁶ Priority Partners imposes quantity and duration limits.⁵⁷ Priority Partners’ PDL includes Epclusa, Harvoni and Sovaldi.⁵⁸

UHC requires PA and imposes harsher restrictions than FFS. UHC requires severe liver damage (F3 or greater) and 30 days abstinence confirmed by a negative drug screen.⁵⁹ A specialist must prescribe.⁶⁰ UHC’s PDL includes Epclusa (Genotypes 2, 3, 5 and 6), Sovaldi (Genotype 2) and Zepatier (Genotypes 1 and 4).⁶¹

While transparency is lacking regarding some MCO coverage requirements, Maryland responded to the NVHR/CHLPI survey requesting information on the state’s hepatitis C coverage criteria.

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

Maryland FFS requires at least moderate liver damage (F2 or greater).⁶²

Amerigroup, Jai, MPC, MedStar and UM Health Partners also require at least moderate liver damage (F2 or greater).⁶³ Amerigroup further elaborates that certain kinds of patients must be approved. These patients include: beneficiaries with genotype 3 who have cirrhosis (F4); HIV co-infected patients whose HIV is not virologically suppressed; liver transplant patients; patients prescribed the combination of sofosbuvir and simeprevir; patients with genotype 1a prescribed Zepatier.⁶⁴ MDH must also review “patients initially denied by the MCO for which the prescriber is now requesting reconsideration and requires therapy with an immunosuppressant or has extrahepatic manifestations of HCV or the provider relates to the MCO that there are extenuating circumstances which require urgent treatment of HCV or any patient for whom a therapy is requested which is not included in the most recent version of DHMH’s clinical criteria.”⁶⁵

Kaiser does not provide hepatitis C coverage requirements publicly.⁶⁶

Priority Partner’s liver damage requirements are unclear.⁶⁷

UHC requires severe liver damage (F3 or greater).⁶⁸

Sobriety Restrictions

Maryland FFS requires screening to determine if the patient has “an active diagnosis of a substance use disorder.”⁶⁹ The PA also inquires if the beneficiary is actively engaged in treatment and, if not, then whether the prescriber has conducted an adherence assessment to assure successful treatment completion.⁷⁰

Amerigroup, Jai, MPC, MedStar, Priority Partners and UM Health Partners impose the same sobriety screening requirements as FFS.⁷¹

Kaiser does not provide hepatitis C coverage requirements publicly.⁷²

UHC requires 30 days abstinence confirmed by a negative urine screen.⁷³

Prescriber Restrictions

Maryland FFS program requires a prescription to be written by or in consultation with a specialist.⁷⁴

Amerigroup, Jai, MPC, MedStar, and UM Health Partners also require a prescription to be written by or in consultation with a specialist.⁷⁵

Kaiser does not provide hepatitis C coverage requirements publicly.⁷⁶

Priority Partners’ prescriber requirements are unclear.⁷⁷

UHC requires a gastroenterologist, hepatologist or infectious disease specialist to prescribe.⁷⁸

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

Medicaid⁷⁹: Shannon McMahan, Deputy Secretary, Health Care Financing, Maryland Department of Health

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Telephone: (410) 767-4139; Email Address: shannon.mcmahan@maryland.gov

Drug Utilization Review (DUR)⁸⁰: Maryland Pharmacy Program Office

201 West Preston St., Room 408/409, Baltimore, MD, 21201; Telephone: 1(800)492-5231, option # 3

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