Montana

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 14,900

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Summary</th>
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| F     | **Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions:** Montana requires severe liver damage (F3 or greater).  
**Sobriety Restrictions:** Montana requires abstinence from drugs and alcohol for at least six months.  
**Prescriber Restrictions:** Montana requires a prescription be written by or in consultation with a specialist.  
**Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:**  
- Remove liver damage, sobriety and prescriber restrictions.  
- Maintain transparency regarding hepatitis C coverage criteria.  
*Grade Rationale:* Montana has unacceptable restrictions in all categories. With these restrictions, few people with hepatitis C have access to treatment. |

Background

Montana’s Medicaid program is called Passport to Health. As of March 2017, there were 254,112 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Over 1,000 cases of hepatitis C are reported in Montana every year, many from the baby boomer generation (born between 1945 - 1965). Montana operates a Primary Care Case Management (PCCM) program in which beneficiaries either choose or are assigned to a primary care provider to manage their care. The state does not contract with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs). 70 percent of beneficiaries are enrolled in the PCCM; the remaining 30 percent participate in the Fee-For-Service (FFS) program. Montana Medicaid establishes uniform hepatitis C coverage criteria for all beneficiaries regardless if an individual is enrolled in the PCCM or FFS program.

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

Montana Medicaid severely restricts access to hepatitis C medications. The state requires severe liver damage (F3 or greater) and beneficiaries must not have a history of alcohol or substance use six months prior to seeking approval for treatment. Additionally, a specialist must prescribe treatment.

In April 2016, in an effort to streamline the hepatitis C prior authorization (PA) process, the state announced the use of a single PA form instead of requiring forms for each medication. Montana Medicaid includes the following Direct-Acting Antivirals (DAAs) on the Preferred Drug List (PDL): preferred (Daklinza, Technivie, Eplusa and Viekira PA) and non-preferred (Harvoni, Olysio, Sovaldi and Zepatier). During the April 26, 2017 Drug Use Review (DUR) Board/Formulary Committee Meeting, the Board requested that the Department of Public Health and Human Services provide data regarding percentage of the total Medicaid prescription budget utilized on hepatitis C treatments at a future meeting.

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

Montana Medicaid requires patients to have severe liver damage (F3 or greater).

Sobriety Restrictions

Montana Medicaid imposes severe sobriety restrictions which require beneficiaries not to have a history of alcohol, illicit or other substance use six months prior to the approval of hepatitis C treatment. A patient must sign the Patient Readiness Criteria included on the PA form. A patient must be educated on the impact of alcohol on the liver as well as how illicit substance use may increase the risk of reinfection. Beneficiaries are highly encouraged to be involved in a support group or counseling to ensure successful treatment.

On the Patient Readiness Criteria checklist, both the provider and patient must acknowledge that the individual is compliant with all current medications that are being prescribed for all disease states/conditions to be considered eligible for hepatitis C treatment approval and have a history of compliance with scheduled appointments/labs preceding approval of hepatitis C treatment. The Patient Readiness Criteria also states if a patient has a mental health condition(s), the patient must be compliant with mental health medications and/or psychotherapy. If a patient has a mental health condition(s) that is not currently being treated, then a mental health consult to assess for patient readiness...
will be required before hepatitis C treatment can begin. Finally, the Patient Readiness Criteria states that "Patient psychosocial readiness is a critical component for hepatitis C treatment success. It is important that any potential impediments to the effectiveness of treatment have been identified and that a plan for dealing with these impediments has been developed... Given the high cost of hepatitis C treatment, we want to ensure that both the provider and the patient feel that the patient is committed to effectively start and successfully adhere to treatment."

**Prescriber Restrictions**

Montana Medicaid requires hepatitis C medications to be prescribed by a specialist: gastroenterologist, hepatologist or infectious disease physician.

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

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1 HepVu, Montana State Profile: https://hepvu.org/state/montana/
4 Hepatitis C (HCV), Public Health and Safety Division, Montana Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS), Hepatitis C, Get Tested, The only Danger is Not Knowing: http://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/hivstd/HepatitisC [Accessed May 2017]
5 Ibid. Montana Medicaid and Health Montana Kids (HMK) Plus, DPHHS
6 Share of Medicaid Populations Covered Under Different Delivery Systems, State Health Facts, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation: https://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
11 Ibid. Montana Medicaid Prior Authorization Request for Hepatitis C Treatment, Mountain-Pacific Quality Health
12 Ibid. Montana Medicaid Prior Authorization Request for Hepatitis C Treatment, Mountain-Pacific Quality Health
13 Ibid. Montana Medicaid Prior Authorization Request for Hepatitis C Treatment, Mountain-Pacific Quality Health
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