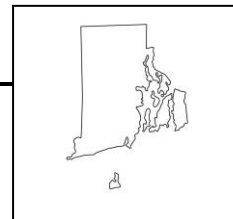


# Rhode Island

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 17,500<sup>1</sup>



Grade	Summary
<h2>A-</h2>	<p><b>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions:</b> Fee-For-Service (FFS) does not impose liver damage restrictions. One Managed Care Organization (MCO), Neighborhood Health Plan, requires severe liver damage (F3 or greater). One MCO, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, does not impose liver damage restrictions. One MCO, Tufts Health Plan, does not have publicly available treatment criteria.</p> <p><b>Sobriety Restrictions:</b> FFS does not impose sobriety restrictions. Two MCOs, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan and Neighborhood Health Plan, do not impose sobriety restrictions. One MCO, Tufts Health Plan, does not have publicly available treatment criteria.</p> <p><b>Prescriber Restrictions:</b> FFS requires that for patients with severe liver damage (F3 or F4), the provider must be on the Rhode Island Medicaid Hepatitis C Preferred Provider List, or such provider must be consulted and co-manage the patients with a primary care provider. All other patients can be treated by a primary care physician, advance practice nurse, or physician assistant. Two MCOs, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan and Neighborhood Health Plan, require the prescriber to be approved by the state. One MCO, Tufts Health Plan, does not have publicly available treatment criteria.</p> <p><b>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove prescriber requirements.</li> <li>• Ensure hepatitis C coverage parity across FFS and MCO programs and transparency regarding hepatitis C coverage guidelines.</li> </ul> <p><i>Grade Rationale: Rhode Island has made substantial progress in opening access. Beneficiaries can now access treatment without regard to liver damage or sobriety. However, because FFS still restricts certain patients to approved providers and at least one MCO still has outdated treatment criteria that require severe liver damage, a “minus” has been added to the state’s A grade.</i></p>

## Background

As of June 2017, Rhode Island had 313,369 individuals enrolled in Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program.<sup>2</sup> The state operates a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program and contracts with three Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).<sup>3</sup> Most beneficiaries, 90 percent, are enrolled in a MCO plan, while the remaining 10 percent participate in FFS.<sup>4</sup> Rhode Island contracts with Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, a local non-profit plan, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan (UHC) and Tufts Health Plan.<sup>5</sup>

## State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

Rhode Island has made substantial improvement in providing access to hepatitis C treatment. Due to pressure from the Rhode Island Center for Justice, the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation, and attorneys from Jones Kelleher, LLP, the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) revised and implemented new treatment criteria in July 2018.<sup>6</sup> The FFS program now approves treatment regardless of a beneficiary’s liver damage level.<sup>7</sup> The FFS treatment criteria do not inquire about a beneficiary’s substance use and does not specify any minimum sobriety period.<sup>8</sup> For patients with severe liver damage (F3 or F4), the provider must be on the Rhode Island Medicaid Hepatitis C Preferred Provider List, or such provider must be consulted and co-manage the patients with a primary care provider.<sup>9</sup> The application from for the Preferred Provider List indicates that providers with appropriate clinical expertise and care management capacity may be admitted.<sup>10</sup> All other patients can be treated by a primary care physician, advance practice nurse, or physician assistant.<sup>11</sup>

Rhode Island FFS includes the following Direct-Acting Antiviral (DAAs) regimens: Mavyret and Vosevi (preferred), Daklinza, Epclusa, Harvoni, Olysio, Sovaldi, Technivie, Viekira Pak, and Zepatier (non-preferred).<sup>12</sup> FFS uniquely addresses continuity of treatment when a patient is transitioning between publicly funded delivery systems, “e.g. between Fee-for-Service Medicaid and Managed Care Medicaid, between Managed Care Medicaid and Fee for Service Medicaid or between the Department of Corrections and the Medicaid program, any authorization granted by the prior delivery system will be honored for the portion of the treatment that remains after the transition.”<sup>13</sup>

Neighborhood Health Plan’s treatment criteria is published up to December 2017 and is likely out of date. Neighborhood Health Plan requires requests for PA to be written by a state approved physician.<sup>14</sup> Neighborhood Health Plan requires patients to demonstrate severe liver damage (F3 or F4), or alternatively moderate liver damage (F2) for patients co-infected with HIV.<sup>15</sup> Prescriptions must be filled at Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy.<sup>16</sup> Neighborhood Health Plan’s PA form does not mention sobriety.<sup>17</sup>

UHC’s criteria is substantially similar to the FFS criteria. UHC does not impose either minimum liver damage or sobriety requirements.<sup>18</sup> However, unlike FFS, *all* prescriptions must come from a provider enrolled in the Rhode Island Medicaid Hepatitis C Preferred Provider List.<sup>19</sup>

Tufts Health Plan does not have publicly available treatment criteria.

Rhode Island responded to the NVHR/CHLPI survey requesting information on hepatitis C Medicaid coverage requirements.

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## **Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions**

Rhode Island FFS does not impose any liver damage restrictions.<sup>20</sup>

Neighborhood Health Plan’s published criteria require severe live damage (F3 or greater), or moderate liver damage (F2) if the beneficiary is co-infected with HIV.<sup>21</sup>

UHC does not impose any liver damage restrictions.<sup>22</sup>

Tufts Health Plan does not have publicly available treatment criteria.

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## **Sobriety Restrictions**

Rhode Island FFS does not have any sobriety restrictions.<sup>23</sup>

Neighborhood Health Plan does not impose any sobriety requirements.<sup>24</sup>

UHC does not impose any sobriety requirements.<sup>25</sup>

Tufts Health Plan does not have publicly available treatment criteria.

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## **Prescriber Restrictions**

Rhode Island FFS requires that for patients with severe liver damage (F3 or F4), the provider must be on the Rhode Island Medicaid Hepatitis C Preferred Provider List, or such provider must be consulted and co-manage the patients with a primary care provider.<sup>26</sup> The application from for the Preferred Provider List indicates that providers with appropriate clinical expertise and care management capacity may be admitted.<sup>27</sup> All other patients can be treated by a primary care physician, advance practice nurse, or physician assistant.<sup>28</sup>

Neighborhood Health Plan requires the prescriber to be approved by the state.<sup>29</sup>

UHC requires that all prescriptions must come from a provider enrolled in the Rhode Island Medicaid Hepatitis C Preferred Provider List.<sup>30</sup>

Tufts Health Plan does not have publicly available treatment criteria.

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## **Point of Contact for Questions & Concerns about Rhode Island’s State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Access**

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<sup>1</sup> Rhode Island State Profile, HepVu (Accessed August 2017): <https://hepvu.org/state/rhode-island/>

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

<sup>3</sup> Medicaid, Healthcare Programs, Families with Children, Consumer, Executive Office of Health & Human Services (Accessed August 2017):

<http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/Consumer/FamilieswithChildren/HealthcarePrograms.aspx>; See also: ACA Healthcare Coverage, Medicaid Expansion, Medicaid for Adults, Adults, Consumer, Executive Office of Health & Human Services (Accessed August 2017): <http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/Consumer/Adults/MedicaidforAdults.aspx>

- <sup>4</sup> Share of Medicaid Population Covered Under Different Delivery Systems, Medicaid Market Tracker, 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%22colId%22-%22Location%22,%22sort%22-%22asc%22%7D>; See also: Rhode Island Comprehensive Section 1115 Demonstration Fact Sheet, Medicaid.gov (Accessed August 2017): <https://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Waivers/1115/downloads/ri/ri-global-consumer-choice-compact-fs.pdf>
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- <sup>6</sup> Executive Office of Health and Human Services, State of Rhode Island (2018). *Rhode Island Expands Access to Live-Saving Hepatitis C Treatment*. Available at: <http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/PressReleases/HCVPressRelease071218.pdf> [Accessed 15 Jul. 2018].
- <sup>7</sup> Treatment of Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Guidelines. Executive Office of Health and Human Services, State of Rhode Island (Accessed July 2018): [http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Pharmacy/PA22\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Pharmacy/PA22_Policy.pdf).
- <sup>8</sup> Ibid. Treatment of Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Guidelines. Executive Office of Health and Human Services, State of Rhode Island.
- <sup>9</sup> Ibid. Treatment of Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Guidelines. Executive Office of Health and Human Services, State of Rhode Island.
- <sup>10</sup> Application for Preferred Provider Status (PPS) for Treatment of Hepatitis C, RI Medicaid Fee-For-Service, Executive Office of Health & Human Services, October 2017 (Accessed July 2018): <http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Pharmacy/PA22-PP.pdf>.
- <sup>11</sup> Ibid. Treatment of Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Guidelines. Executive Office of Health and Human Services, State of Rhode Island.
- <sup>12</sup> Ibid. Treatment of Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Guidelines. Executive Office of Health and Human Services, State of Rhode Island.; See also: Preferred Drug List (PDL), RI Medicaid Fee-For-Service, Executive Office of Health & Human Services, Updated: July 10, 2018 (Accessed July 2018): [http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Pharmacy/pdl\\_list.pdf](http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Pharmacy/pdl_list.pdf)
- <sup>13</sup> Ibid. Treatment of Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Guidelines. Executive Office of Health and Human Services, State of Rhode Island.
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- <sup>15</sup> Ibid. Medicaid Prior Authorization Criteria, Mavyret, Vosevi. Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island (December 2017). Forms, Prior Authorization Information, Pharmacy Resources, Neighborhood Family Health Plan (Accessed August 2017): <https://www.nhpri.org/Providers/PharmacyResources.aspx>; See also: Hepatitis C (HCV) PA Form, Neighborhood Health Plan/Walgreens (Accessed August 2017): [https://www.nhpri.org/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Prior\\_Authorization\\_Forms/HepC\\_May\\_2017-PA\\_FORM.pdf](https://www.nhpri.org/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Prior_Authorization_Forms/HepC_May_2017-PA_FORM.pdf)
- <sup>16</sup> Ibid. Therapeutic Class Search: Anti-infective agents/HCV polymerase inhibitors, Search Results, Neighborhood Formulary; See also Pharmacy Benefit, Pharmacy Resources, Neighborhood Family Health Plan
- <sup>17</sup> Ibid. Forms, Prior Authorization Information, Pharmacy Resources, Neighborhood Family Health Plan (Accessed August 2017); See also: Hepatitis C (HCV) PA Form, Neighborhood Health Plan/Walgreens; See also: Prior Authorization Forms (search via drug name), Neighborhood Health Plan (Accessed August 2017): <https://www.nhpri.org/Providers/PriorAuthorizationForms.aspx>
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- <sup>19</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Medications – Rhode Island Prior Authorization Request Form. UnitedHealthcare Community Plan (Accessed July 2018).
- <sup>20</sup> Ibid. Treatment of Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Guidelines. Executive Office of Health and Human Services, State of Rhode Island.
- <sup>21</sup> Ibid. Forms, Prior Authorization Information, Pharmacy Resources, Neighborhood Family Health Plan (Accessed August 2017); See also: Hepatitis C (HCV) PA Form, Neighborhood Health Plan/Walgreens; See also: Prior Authorization Forms (search via drug name), Neighborhood Health Plan (Accessed August 2017): <https://www.nhpri.org/Providers/PriorAuthorizationForms.aspx>
- <sup>22</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Medications – Rhode Island Prior Authorization Request Form. UnitedHealthcare Community Plan (Accessed July 2018).
- <sup>23</sup> Ibid. Treatment of Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Guidelines. Executive Office of Health and Human Services, State of Rhode Island
- <sup>24</sup> Ibid. Forms, Prior Authorization Information, Pharmacy Resources, Neighborhood Family Health Plan (Accessed August 2017); See also: Hepatitis C (HCV) PA Form, Neighborhood Health Plan/Walgreens
- <sup>25</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Medications – Rhode Island Prior Authorization Request Form. UnitedHealthcare Community Plan (Accessed July 2018).
- <sup>26</sup> Ibid. Treatment of Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Guidelines. Executive Office of Health and Human Services, State of Rhode Island.
- <sup>27</sup> Application for Preferred Provider Status (PPS) for Treatment of Hepatitis C, RI Medicaid Fee-For-Service, Executive Office of Health & Human Services, October 2017 (Accessed July 2018): <http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Pharmacy/PA22-PP.pdf>.
- <sup>28</sup> Ibid. Treatment of Hepatitis C Prior Authorization Guidelines. Executive Office of Health and Human Services, State of Rhode Island.
- <sup>29</sup> Ibid. Forms, Prior Authorization Information, Pharmacy Resources, Neighborhood Family Health Plan (Accessed August 2017); See also: Hepatitis C (HCV) PA Form, Neighborhood Health Plan/Walgreens
- <sup>30</sup> Ibid. Hepatitis C Medications – Rhode Island Prior Authorization Request Form. UnitedHealthcare Community Plan (Accessed July 2018).
- <sup>31</sup> Contact Us, Executive Office of Health & Human Services (Accessed August 2017): <http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/ContactUs/ContactInformation.aspx>