

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Missouri

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 76,900¹



Grade	Summary
<h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">A</h1>	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Missouri does not impose any liver damage restrictions.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: Missouri does not impose a specific abstinence period but does require prescribers to address “ongoing misuse of alcohol or illicit IV substances (if appropriate).”</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: Missouri does not impose prescriber restrictions.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve open access to hepatitis C medications. • Maintain parity across Fee-For-Service (FFS) and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and transparency regarding hepatitis C coverage. <p><i>Grade Rationale: Missouri has significantly increased access to hepatitis C treatment. The state removed liver damage requirements and does not impose prescriber or sobriety restrictions. Additionally, the state now allows access to pediatric patients.</i></p>

Overview

As of April 2017, Missouri had 978,080 individuals enrolled in Medicaid, known as MO HealthNet,² and Children’s Health Insurance Program.³ Missouri operates a Fee-For-Service (FFS) program and contracts with three Managed Care Organizations (MCOs): Home State Health, Missouri Care and United HealthCare.⁴ Over 51 percent of beneficiaries are enrolled in a MCO plan and over 48 percent participate in the FFS program.⁵ As of October 1, 2009, Missouri excludes pharmacy services from MCO contracts.⁶ All pharmacy claims and prior authorization (PA) are processed by the MO HealthNet FFS pharmacy program.⁷

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

In October 2016, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, the Saint Louis University Legal Clinic, and the National Health Law Program filed a case in the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri against the MO HealthNet for restricting access to hepatitis C medications based on liver damage (fibrosis) severity and sobriety.⁸ The Court issued a preliminary injunction barring Missouri from enforcing its restrictions related to sobriety, raising the possibility that a final determination of the issue may be unfavorable. In November 2017, Missouri took steps to improve access to hepatitis C medications by eliminating liver damage restrictions.⁹

According to the current coverage criteria, the prescriber must attest that the beneficiary “demonstrates treatment readiness.”¹⁰ The prescriber also must submit both a baseline viral load and liver damage fibrosis score.¹¹ While the requirements do not specify an abstinence period, the prescriber “is responsible for addressing ongoing misuse of alcohol and/or continued use of illicit IV drugs (if appropriate).”¹² The state does not impose any specific prescriber requirements.¹³ Adult patients must be at least 18 years old; pediatric patients who are at least 12 years old “or weighing at least 35 Kg with genotypes 1, 4, 5, or 6 without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis” also qualify for treatment.¹⁴

Additional requirements direct the prescriber to submit viral load results “upon completion of treatment, 12 weeks post treatment, and 24 weeks post treatment” and caution that “failure to submit these lab reports in a timely fashion may result in denial of retreatment should that situation arise.”¹⁵ Retreatment is also “at the discretion of MO HealthNet.”¹⁶ The criteria state that “with the availability of two pan-genotypic Direct-Acting Antiviral (DAA) products, MO HealthNet has elected to select preferred agents on the basis of treatment duration and not based on genotype.” Further, “clinically and financially, the shortest duration of treatment will drive the Preferred Drug List (PDL) and must always be used.”¹⁷ As such, “a 12 week duration of treatment cannot be used when an 8 week duration of treatment is available and appropriate, based upon FDA approved prescribing information.”¹⁸ Additionally, the criteria state that approval for a longer duration of treatment those listed or for a non-preferred agent require the approval of a Missouri HealthNet Division (MHD) clinical consultant.¹⁹ A “letter of medical necessity” must be submitted indicating why no preferred agents are clinically appropriate based upon FDA approved prescribing information.²⁰ The PDL identifies the following preferred treatments based on duration of therapy: 8 weeks: Mavyret; 12 weeks: Mavyret, Vosevi, Zepatier; and 16 weeks: Mavyret, Zepatier.²¹

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

MO HealthNet requires a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C.²² While a specific liver damage requirement is not imposed, the state does require the prescriber to submit a fibrosis score as part of the clinical information necessary for approval.²³

Sobriety Restrictions

MO HealthNet does not specify an abstinence period. However, the prescriber “is responsible for addressing ongoing misuse of alcohol and/or continued use of illicit IV drugs (if appropriate).”²⁴

Prescriber Restrictions

MO HealthNet does not impose prescriber requirements.²⁵

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

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¹ HepVu, Missouri State Profile: <https://hepvu.org/state/missouri/>

² Medical Services-MO HealthNet, My DDS (Accessed June 2017): <https://mydss.mo.gov/msmed>

³ Medicaid and CHIP in Missouri, By-State, Medicaid.gov (Accessed June 2017): <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=missouri>

⁴ What Services Are Available, MO HealthNet Managed Care (Accessed June 2017): <https://modss.uservoice.com/knowledgebase/articles/1119757-what-services-are-available>

⁵ Share of Medicaid Population Covered Under Different Delivery Systems, Medicaid Managed Care Market Tracker, July 1, 2016 (Accessed June 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>

⁶ Managed Care Pharmacy Carve-Out-Billing Notification, Missouri Department of Social Services (Accessed June 2017): <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/cs/pharmacy/pages/mcpharmcob.htm>

⁷ Ibid. Managed Care Pharmacy Carve-Out-Billing Notification, Missouri Department of Social Services

⁸ Steph Zimmerman, Hepatitis C Patients Sue Missouri For Not Covering Pricy, Life-saving Drugs, St Louis Health News, November 7, 2016 (Accessed June 2017): <https://www.stlmag.com/health/news/hepatitis-c-patients-sue-missouri/>

⁹ Hepatitis C (HCV) Therapy, Preferred Drug List Criteria Proposal, MO HealthNet, November 1, 2017 (Accessed November 2017): <https://dss.mo.gov/mhd/cs/pharmacy/pdf/hepatitis-c-therapy.pdf>

¹⁰ Hepatitis C (HCV) Therapy, Preferred Drug List Criteria Proposal, MO HealthNet, November 1, 2017 (Accessed November 2017): <https://dss.mo.gov/mhd/cs/pharmacy/pdf/hepatitis-c-therapy.pdf>

¹¹ Hepatitis C (HCV) Therapy, Preferred Drug List Criteria Proposal, MO HealthNet, November 1, 2017 (Accessed November 2017): <https://dss.mo.gov/mhd/cs/pharmacy/pdf/hepatitis-c-therapy.pdf>

¹² Hepatitis C (HCV) Therapy, Preferred Drug List Criteria Proposal, MO HealthNet, November 1, 2017 (Accessed November 2017): <https://dss.mo.gov/mhd/cs/pharmacy/pdf/hepatitis-c-therapy.pdf>;

¹³ Ibid. Hepatitis C (HCV) Therapy, Preferred Drug List Criteria Proposal, MO HealthNet, November 1, 2017

¹⁴ Ibid. Hepatitis C (HCV) Therapy, Preferred Drug List Criteria Proposal, MO HealthNet, November 1, 2017

¹⁵ Ibid. Hepatitis C (HCV) Therapy, Preferred Drug List Criteria Proposal, MO HealthNet, November 1, 2017

¹⁶ Ibid. Hepatitis C (HCV) Therapy, Preferred Drug List Criteria Proposal, MO HealthNet, November 1, 2017

¹⁷ Ibid. Hepatitis C (HCV) Therapy, Preferred Drug List Criteria Proposal, MO HealthNet, November 1, 2017

¹⁸ Ibid. Hepatitis C (HCV) Therapy, Preferred Drug List Criteria Proposal, MO HealthNet, November 1, 2017

¹⁹ Ibid. Hepatitis C (HCV) Therapy, Preferred Drug List Criteria Proposal, MO HealthNet, November 1, 2017

²⁰ Ibid. Hepatitis C (HCV) Therapy, Preferred Drug List Criteria Proposal, MO HealthNet, November 1, 2017

²¹ Ibid. Hepatitis C (HCV) Therapy, Preferred Drug List Criteria Proposal, MO HealthNet, November 1, 2017

²² Ibid. Hepatitis C (HCV) Therapy, Preferred Drug List Criteria Proposal, MO HealthNet, November 1, 2017

²³ Ibid. Hepatitis C (HCV) Therapy, Preferred Drug List Criteria Proposal, MO HealthNet, November 1, 2017

²⁴ Ibid. Hepatitis C (HCV) Therapy, Preferred Drug List Criteria Proposal, MO HealthNet, November 1, 2017

²⁵ Ibid. Hepatitis C (HCV) Therapy, Preferred Drug List Criteria Proposal, MO HealthNet, November 1, 2017

²⁶ Medicaid Directors, National Association of Medicaid Directors (Accessed June 2017): <http://medicaiddirectors.org/about/medicaid-directors/>

²⁷ Drug Utilization Review Board, MO Boards and Commissions (Accessed June 2017): <https://boards.mo.gov/userpages/Board.aspx?184>