

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Alabama

Estimated Number of Individuals Living with Hepatitis C: 30,700¹



Grade	Summary
D+	<p>Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions: Alabama does not impose liver damage restrictions.</p> <p>Sobriety Restrictions: Alabama requires abstinence from drugs and alcohol for at least six months.</p> <p>Prescriber Restrictions: Alabama does not appear to impose any prescriber restrictions.</p> <p>Recommendations to Improve Patient Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove sobriety restrictions.• Consider waiving prior authorization for treatment-naïve individuals.• Authorize retreatment for reinfections. <p><i>Grade Rationale: While Alabama has no prescriber or liver damage restrictions, it has an unacceptable sobriety (six months) requirements and will not treat reinfections. With these restrictions, many people with hepatitis C do not have access to treatment.</i></p>

Background

As of June 2021, there were 1,043,086 individuals enrolled in Alabama’s Medicaid and Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP).² Alabama operates a fee-for-service (FFS) and primary care case management program and does not contract with managed care organizations.³ Coverage criteria established by the FFS program pertain to all Medicaid beneficiaries.

State of Medicaid Hepatitis C Treatment Access

Alabama’s hepatitis C coverage criteria has expanded over time to include those at earlier fibrosis stages. As of March 2021, Alabama does not require a minimum level of liver damage to qualify for treatment and allows beneficiaries of all fibrosis levels to qualify.⁴ Additionally, the program does not impose any prescriber restrictions.⁵ However, the state requires at least six months’ sobriety from substances or alcohol confirmed by a screen performed at the time treatment is prescribed.⁶ The program only allows one treatment in a patient’s lifetime.⁷ FFS covers the following Direct-Acting Agents (DAAs): Eplclusa, Harvoni, Mavyret, Zepatier, and all generics.⁸

Liver Damage (Fibrosis) Restrictions

Alabama does not impose liver damage restrictions.

Sobriety Restrictions

Alabama’s PA form inquires if a patient has used alcohol or an illicit substance in the past six months.⁹ The prescriber must submit a drug and alcohol screening report with the PA request.¹⁰ Additionally, an individual must sign a patient consent form that commits them not to use alcohol or illicit substances while undergoing treatment. If a patient uses either alcohol or a substance, Medicaid will not pay for hepatitis C therapy.¹¹

Prescriber Restrictions

Alabama does not impose prescriber restrictions.

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

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¹ Alabama State Profile, HepVu: <https://hepvu.org/state/alabama/>.

² Medicaid.gov; Medicaid & CHIP in Alabama: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/by-state/stateprofile.html?state=alabama>.

³ Share of Medicaid Population Covered under Different Delivery Systems, State Health Facts, Kaiser Family Foundation, Collected as part of Medicaid Managed Care Market Tracker (Updated July 1, 2021): <http://kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/share-of-medicicaid-population-covered-under-different-delivery-systems/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>.

⁴ Alabama Medicaid Pharmacy Hepatitis C Antiviral Agents PA Request Form, Ala. Medicaid Agency, Updated March 10, 2021 (Accessed December 2021):

https://medicaid.alabama.gov/documents/9.0_Resources/9.4_Forms_Library/9.4.14_PA_Forms/9.4.14_PH_PA_Form_415_Hep_C_Revised_3-10-21.pdf; See also Hepatitis C Antiviral Agents Prior Authorization (PA)

Criteria Instructions, Updated March 1, 2021 (Accessed December 2021):

https://medicaid.alabama.gov/documents/9.0_Resources/9.4_Forms_Library/9.4.14_PA_Forms/9.4.14_PH_PA_Form_415_Hep_C_External_Criteria_Instructions_3-1-21.pdf.

⁵ Ibid. Alabama Medicaid Pharmacy Hepatitis C Antiviral Agents PA Request Form, Ala. Medicaid Agency; See also Hepatitis C Antiviral Agents Prior Authorization (PA) Criteria Instructions.

⁶ Ibid. Alabama Medicaid Pharmacy Hepatitis C Antiviral Agents PA Request Form, Ala. Medicaid Agency; See also Hepatitis C Antiviral Agents Prior Authorization (PA) Criteria Instructions.

⁷ Ibid. Alabama Medicaid Pharmacy Hepatitis C Antiviral Agents PA Request Form, Ala. Medicaid Agency; See also Hepatitis C Antiviral Agents Prior Authorization (PA) Criteria Instructions.

⁸ Preferred Drug List by Therapeutic Category, Ala. Medicaid Agency: https://medicaid.alabama.gov/documents/4.0_Programs/4.3_Pharmacy-DME/4.3.7_Preferred_Drug_List/4.3.7_PDL_Thera_1-1-21-Final.pdf/.

⁹ Ibid. Alabama Medicaid Pharmacy Hepatitis C Antiviral Agents PA Request Form, Ala. Medicaid Agency; See also Hepatitis C Antiviral Agents Prior Authorization (PA) Criteria Instructions.

¹⁰ Ibid. Alabama Medicaid Pharmacy Hepatitis C Antiviral Agents PA Request Form, Ala. Medicaid Agency; See also Hepatitis C Antiviral Agents Prior Authorization (PA) Criteria Instructions.

¹¹ Ibid. Alabama Medicaid Pharmacy Hepatitis C Antiviral Agents PA Request Form, Ala. Medicaid Agency; See also Hepatitis C Antiviral Agents Prior Authorization (PA) Criteria Instructions.

¹² National Association of Medicaid Directors, Contact Information (Accessed December 2021): <https://medicaidirectors.org/about/medicaid-directors/>

¹³ Contact Information, Alabama Medicaid P&T Committee (Accessed December 2021): [https://medicaid.alabama.gov/documents/4.0_Programs/4.3_Pharmacy-](https://medicaid.alabama.gov/documents/4.0_Programs/4.3_Pharmacy-DME/4.3.5_Mfg_Info/4.3.5_Policy_Procedures_Meeting_Pharm_Manu_2-1-16.pdf)

[DME/4.3.5_Mfg_Info/4.3.5_Policy_Procedures_Meeting_Pharm_Manu_2-1-16.pdf](https://medicaid.alabama.gov/documents/4.0_Programs/4.3_Pharmacy-DME/4.3.5_Mfg_Info/4.3.5_Policy_Procedures_Meeting_Pharm_Manu_2-1-16.pdf).