

Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access Report Card

Arkansas



Grade	Recommendations to Improve Patient Access
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove prior authorization for HCV treatment. Remove requirement that only hepatologists, gastroenterologists, infectious disease specialists, or physicians working directly under those providers may prescribe. Remove additional restrictions as described in report card.

State Overview

As of March 2024, 777,440 individuals were enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP.¹ It is estimated that as of 2016, 21,800 people were living with HCV in Arkansas.² Arkansas does not contract with any managed care organization (MCOs) for most of its Medicaid population. A small number of enrollees may participate in the PASSE program, which involves state contracted MCOs for specific high-needs populations.³ For the Medicaid expansion population, Arkansas Medicaid was granted a Medicaid § 1115 waiver to operate ARHOME, a program that provides private coverage to eligible beneficiaries by paying the premium for qualified health plans.⁴ The ARHOME program is administered by Arkansas BlueCross BlueShield⁵ and Ambetter,⁶ neither of which is transparent about its pharmaceutical coverage. In January 2023, Arkansas Medicaid posted a request for information for a Medicaid Managed Care Solution, indicating the possibility of MCO contracts in the future.⁷

The Arkansas Medicaid Preferred Drug List designates Mavyret, sofosbuvir/velpatasvir (generic Epclusa), and Zepatier as preferred medications.⁸

Deductions		Policy
Prior Authorization	-8	Prior authorization is required for all HCV treatment regimens. ⁹
Fibrosis Restrictions	0	Effective November 2023, Arkansas Medicaid does not impose fibrosis restrictions. ¹⁰
Substance Use Restrictions	0	Effective March 2024, Arkansas Medicaid does not impose substance use restrictions. ¹¹
Prescriber Restrictions	-8	Arkansas Medicaid imposes prescriber restrictions. "All PA requests must be from a hepatologist, gastroenterologist, infectious disease specialist, or a prescriber working under the direct supervision of one of these specialty physicians." ¹²
Retreatment Restrictions	0	Arkansas Medicaid does not impose retreatment restrictions. ¹³
Access in Managed Care	0	Arkansas does not currently contract with any traditional MCOs to administer its Medicaid program. The PASSE program imposes the same requirements as FFS. ¹⁴
Additional Restrictions	-6	Arkansas Medicaid imposes additional restrictions as follows: ¹⁵ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation of genotype Documentation of adherence: "Adherence with prescribed therapy is a condition for payment of continuation therapy for up to the allowed timeframe for each HCV genotype. The beneficiary's Medicaid drug history will be reviewed prior to approval." Documentation of mental illness/"irritability"
Total Deductions	-22	Total Score [100-Deductions]
		78
		Grade
		C

Contact Your State Officials

Medicaid Office¹⁶: Janet Mann, Director, State Medicaid, Department of Human Services
Donaghey Plaza South, P.O. Box 1437, Little Rock, AR 72203-1437; Telephone: (501) 682-8999; Email Address:
janet.h.mann@dhs.arkansas.gov

Drug Review Committee¹⁷: Cindi Pearson, Pharmacy Administrator
Donaghey Plaza South, P.O. Box 1437, Slot S-415, Little Rock, AR 72203-1437;
Telephone: 501-683-4120; Email Address: cinnamon.pearson@dhs.arkansas.gov

Key Sources

Preferred Drug List: [Magellan Rx Management, Arkansas Medicaid Preferred Drug List \(July 1, 2024\)](#)

Clinical Criteria: [Arkansas Medicaid Prescription Drug Program, Prior Authorization Criteria \(July 29, 2024\)](#)

Prior Authorization Form: [Arkansas Medicaid Prescription Drug Program, Hepatitis C Virus \(HCV\) Medication Therapy Request Sheet \(March 19, 2024\)](#)

¹ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Medicaid & CHIP in Arkansas, <https://perma.cc/VTK5-UKMV>.

² HepVu, Local Data: Arkansas (Jan. 2022), <https://perma.cc/RMY6-786X>.

³ Arkansas Department of Human Services, PASSE: Provider-led Arkansas Shared Savings Entity, <https://perma.cc/Y5ZG-Q4XK>.

⁴ Arkansas Department of Human Services, ARHOME, <https://perma.cc/J6T5-JG6N>.

⁵ Arkansas BlueCross BlueShield, ARHOME Plans, <https://perma.cc/2R7S-SWPE>.

⁶ Ambetter from Arkansas Health & Wellness, <https://perma.cc/5M6T-RTAH>.

⁷ Arkansas Department of Human Services, Announcements: Medicaid Managed Care Solution, <https://perma.cc/S6VK-HNYC>.

⁸ Preferred Drug List.

⁹ Prior Authorization Form.

¹⁰ Prior Authorization Form.

¹¹ Prior Authorization Form.

¹² Prior Authorization Form.

¹³ Prior Authorization Form.

¹⁴ Arkansas Department of Human Services, Beneficiary Support, <https://perma.cc/P42Z-BFDN>.

¹⁵ Prior Authorization Form.

¹⁶ State of Arkansas, Meet the Secretary, <https://perma.cc/SC8R-HXQX>.

¹⁷ State of Arkansas, Arkansas Medicaid DRC, https://arkansas.magellanrx.com/provider/docs/other/ARRx_DUR_DRC_bylaws.pdf.